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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No. 8

pp. 1303 - 1763

68614

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1948

PALESTINE

E 130

30 JAN 1948

Registry Number E1303/8/31

FROM P.R.

No. Sir P. MacDonald

Dated 27 Jan

Received in Registry 30 -

Pol Cal, destination of Evacuated troops.
Sir P. MacDonald, (hid by P. White) to will indicate the candidate and correct destination of troops being evacuated from Pithul.
in transit. General answer not possible. Each will go to various destinations. correct destination of individuals will be given by Dept of service, correct service, and their movements.

Last Paper.

1276

References.

68614

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

JB Jan 31

(Action completed.)

P.L.M. 21/1

(Index.)

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Next Paper.

1342

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EASTERN

Parliamentary Question

*114. Sir Peter Macdonald,—To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether he will indicate the immediate and eventual destination of the troops being evacuated from Palestine, having regard to the importance of this information to their families, especially those which are in Palestine. *

U
Isle of Wight

ANSWERED 27 JAN 1948

REPLY ATTACHED.

E 100

~~24 JAN 1948~~

27 JAN 1948

20 JAN 1948

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE

107. Sir P. Macdonald asked the Secretary of State for War whether he will indicate the immediate and eventual destination of the troops being evacuated from Palestine, having regard to the importance of this information to their families, especially those which are in Palestine.

Mr. Shinwell: It is not possible to answer this Question in general terms. Units now in Palestine will go to various destinations. The importance to soldiers and their families of early information is fully appreciated. The hon. Member will understand, however, that the ultimate destination of individuals will be governed by the length of their remaining service and how long they have been overseas, as well as by moves of units.

27 JAN 1948

3
E
H

(117/8)

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**PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTION.**

pp 4

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Mr. Shinwell: It is not possible to answer this Question in general terms. Units now in Palestine will go to various destinations. The importance to soldiers and their families of early information is fully appreciated. The hon. Member will understand, however, that the ultimate destination of individuals will be governed by the length of their remaining service and how long they have been overseas, as well as by moves of units.

27 JAN 1948

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Group..... **F.O.**
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Piece **68614**

Following document(s)*

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transferred to PRO Safe Room*

E. 1342/8/31
E. 1455/8/31
E. 1531/ "
~~68614~~

and closed until..... **1999**.....

*delete as necessary

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E

E 135

JAN 1948

Registry Number } E 1359/8/51
 FROM }
 No. }
 Dated }
 Received in Registry }
 21

attached, first Report.
most part of form of report on
attached to dated 11/1/48

Last Paper.

1342

References.

1455/8/9

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt. J. Higham, G.O.
from Mr Beith
x. Feb

Comp. for Sherman Cab Off
Feb. 7.

(Action completed.)

G.L. 14/2

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

E 1455

(Minutes.)

I attach the first Progress Report by the Official Committee on Palestine in E.1455/8/G. This Report is rather more detailed than the type of report described in Mr. Roberts' minute within and it is prepared monthly.

In view of the arrangements described in Mr. Roberts' minute I asked Colonel Sherman to find out whether the Ministry of Defence and Colonial Office were, in fact, preparing short fortnightly reports in addition to the Official Committee's Reports. He informs me that the Ministry of Defence are arranging to present reports in exactly the form described within, but that the Colonial Office have had no similar instructions from their Secretary of State. I would suggest that the monthly reports of the Official Committee supplemented by the Ministry of Defence's short fortnightly reports would adequately meet the needs of Ministers, but in view of Mr. Roberts' minute of January 24th I should like to know whether it is desired that we should press the Colonial Office for the fortnightly reports on ~~the~~ civil administration mentioned.

Mr Beith^{103.5/2}
 Private Sec.

J.G.S. Beith

J.G.S. BEITH.
5th February, 1948.

J.P.P. Cab, Sherman Cab Off & Mr Beith 4/2
Mr Beith w.o.
J. Higham G.O. to Mr Beith 15072/159/22/48 10/2
to minute Feb 10
Mr Beith 4/2

JB Feb. 15

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Interim Report for the Secretary of State
On the Progress of Withdrawal from Palestine.

The principal monthly report from the G.O.C. to the Ministry of Defence is due on January 24th. Meanwhile, the following is an approximate statement of percentages of total withdrawal reached on February 11th:-

- (1) Evacuation of Military Personnel
- ~~(2) Evacuation of stores~~
- (2) Evacuation of stores
- (3) Evacuation of Civil Administrative Personnel 7%

These figures are necessarily approximate owing to the difficulty of securing final, up-to-date information from Palestine.

All Departments of the Civil Administration will be maintained in some form until the end of the Mandate, so far as possible, British officers being replaced by Palestinians. It is estimated that the present efficiency of Government Departments and Services in Palestine is approximately 75% of the proper level.

10th February, 1948.

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INDEX

Preparation of Fortnightly Interim Reports
on the Progress of Withdrawal from Palestine
for the Secretary of State. (E 1359/8/31).

I have been in touch on the departmental level with the War Office, Colonial Office and Cabinet Office about these reports. I am sorry to say that, while the Colonial Office have reluctantly agreed to the statement of a very approximate percentage of the withdrawal of civil administrative personnel, the War Office do not feel able to provide us with even the approximate percentage required.

I attach a note showing the form in which I proposed to submit the report. I have pressed the War Office, in the light of the Minister of Defence's agreement to supply these figures as recorded in Mr. Roberts' minute of January 24th, to state approximate percentages for items 1, 2 and 3 but they are unable to do so. The last figures available to us are contained in the reports of the Official Committee on Palestine which are as follows, up to January 7th:-

- (1) 14 per cent.
(2) 20 per cent.

Since the next monthly report from Palestine is due by February 24th we can expect by then to have a further statement which can be reduced to percentages for the period up to about February 7th. If any further progress is to be made with the War Office in the meantime I fear it will be necessary to take the matter up once more on the Ministerial level. ~~They~~ are apparently very reluctant:-

- (a) to provide fortnightly reports at all.
(b) to state approximate percentages.

I attach a copy of the interim report prepared by the War Office which, it will be seen, is not at all in the form required by us.

J. G. S. Beith
J. G. S. Beith.
11th February, 1948.

Private Secretary.

Perhaps P.S. would ask
P.S. to Minister of Defence
to arrange for the Minister
to give appropriate instructions.

J. G. S. Beith

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

the Chiefs of Staff

File A

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Minutes.

have spoken to the Private Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, who assures me that a coordinated report covering the evacuation of military and RAF stores and personnel is being prepared, and will shortly be submitted to the Minister of Defence and the S of S. He will keep in touch with the Ministry of Defence

Rac McAlpine
16/2

SHBIB
16/2

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Minutes.

Entw. 8

Mr. Wright

E

Eastern Dept.

The Secretary of State discussed this morning with the Minister of Defence and Colonial Secretary the question of progress reports on Palestine.

It was agreed that these reports should be furnished fortnightly in the following form. Various categories of stores, etc. and areas of withdrawal would be decided upon and the total withdrawal would be regarded as 100%. Every fortnight reports would be furnished not giving details, but indicating what percentage of the total withdrawal had been completed. The Minister of Defence would furnish such reports in regard to military withdrawals and the Colonial Secretary in regard to civilian. The final 100% date would be fixed a fortnight earlier than the actual date for the final withdrawal, so as to leave a margin for unexpected delays.

[Handwritten signature]

24th January, 1948.

MTS

26.1

Mr. [Handwritten name] [Handwritten name]

Mr. Bailey

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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*See me about
this before 6 PM
JMB*

E 105

JAN 1948

PALESTINE.

I understand that the Secretary of State intends to write to the Prime Minister on the subject of periodical reports on the progress of the withdrawal from Palestine.

I informed the Official Committee on Palestine this afternoon that the Secretary of State considered that they were the proper body to submit such reports, and that he thought it would be desirable to have them at weekly intervals.

It was explained that the Minister of Defence had already called for monthly reports on the military withdrawal, and that the War Office were now preparing the first of these, which they would submit through the Chiefs of Staff to the Minister on 24th January. It was agreed that the War Office would also send a copy of this report to the Official Committee on Palestine, which would add to it ~~any~~ other information bearing on the withdrawal, civil as well as military, and submit a comprehensive report to the Ministers.

It was also agreed that this procedure should be followed throughout the period of the withdrawal. The Committee considered that it would not be practicable to present such reports weekly and hoped that the Secretary of State would be satisfied with a monthly report, on the understanding that supplementary reports would be submitted when necessary.

*I do feel monthly is long.
I want to see Bealey
JMB*

H. Bealey
H. Bealey.
21st January, 1948.

*I do ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~think~~ ^{think} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~necessary~~ ^{necessary} to
bring the Prime Minister into this. JMB
2/1*

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WHITEHALL 5422

CABINET OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
S.W.1

10

1359 8 ?1

6th February, 1948.

Dear Beith,

We spoke on the telephone concerning the preparation of fortnightly reports by the Colonial Office and Ministry of Defence on the progress of the withdrawal from Palestine.

I have since talked with Higham about this matter. It appears that the Colonial Office are not at present contemplating the preparation of fortnightly reports since the department concerned was not aware of the commitment entered into by the Colonial Secretary at the meeting of Ministers on 24th January, and no instructions have been issued to this effect. I suggest therefore that if the Foreign Secretary wishes to pursue this matter further the Foreign Office should make an official request to the Colonial Office.

The Minister of Defence has called for fortnightly reports on the progress of the military withdrawal from Palestine, and these will be furnished by the War Office on the 9th and 19th of each month respectively. I have arranged for copies to be sent to you direct on a D.O. basis. I have ascertained that the Minister of Defence proposes to send copies of each report to the Foreign Secretary and Colonial Secretary.

A very/.....

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A very rough outline of the supplementary military progress report (fortnightly report) is attached.

I have sent copies of this letter to Higham and to Leask of the War Office.

Yours sincerely,

J. G. S. Beith

J. G. S. Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office.

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11

OUTLINE SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT

A. GENERAL PROGRESS

A brief statement indicating whether programme is being maintained satisfactorily or otherwise.

B. CASUALTIES

A factual statement giving breakdown figures of all Service casualties to date of report.

C. EVACUATION OF PERSONNEL

- (i) Units withdrawn to date of report;
- (ii) Numbers of Service personnel withdrawn;
- (iii) Numbers of Service personnel remaining;
- (iv) Percentage of Service personnel evacuated (100 per cent representing total evacuation).

D. EVACUATION OF STORES

- (i) Army and R.A.F. stores, including ammunition, evacuated, in tons;
- (ii) Army and R.A.F. stores, including ammunition, to be evacuated, in tons;
- (iii) Percentage of Service stores evacuated (100 per cent representing total evacuation);
- (iv) Numbers of Army and R.A.F. vehicles evacuated;
- (v) Numbers of Army and R.A.F. vehicles to be evacuated;
- (vi) Ammunition and explosives evacuated, in tons;
- (vii) Ammunition and explosives to be evacuated, in tons.

E. ANY OTHER MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE.

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From : Major H.L.E.C. Leask, D.S.O., M.B.E.

Whitehall 9400

Ext: 595

THE WAR OFFICE,

WHITEHALL, S.W.1.



12

BM/2232/MO 4

10 February, 1948.

Dear Beith,

With reference to Sherman's letter to you dated 6th February, 1948, I attach a copy of the draft interim progress report on the military withdrawal from Palestine, for your retention.

Yours sincerely,

H.L.E.C. Leask

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office.

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Secretary
Chiefs of Staff Committee

The Minister of Defence agreed (DO(48)5th Mtg, Item 3)
to obtain fortnightly reports from the Chiefs of Staff on the
progress of military withdrawal from Palestine.

The first of these reports is at Annex.

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DRAFT

ANNEX

1st INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EVACUATION OF PALESTINE

PERIOD 7 JANUARY TO 7 FEBRUARY

General Progress of Withdrawal

1. The withdrawal is still proceeding satisfactorily in accordance with Plan 'A', and no major difficulties have been reported.

Evacuation of Service Personnel.

2. During the period under review, HQ 5 Para Brigade has been disbanded and 8 and 9 Para Battalions have combined to form one battalion.

Evacuation of Stores

5. On the basis of the rate of evacuation of stores up to 1st January, it is estimated that approximately 100,000 tons of stores should now have been evacuated to RAFAH or concentrated at HAIFA PORT. This represents approximately 48% of the total figure to be evacuated. It is estimated that approximately 140,000 tons of stores remain to be moved to concentration areas.

Casualties

4. British Service casualties from 1st December, 1947 to 4th February, 1948 have been as follows:-

Killed 25
Wounded 106

~~It should be noted that the figures given in C08(48)82(0) included the Arab Legion, Transjordan Frontier Force and Palestine Police.~~

Progress of disbandment of the Transjordan Frontier Force.

5. Control of the Transjordan Frontier Force reverted to the Colonial Office on 1st February, and disbandment has now started.

Railways

6. In spite of numerous attacks on trains, the railways are working well.

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Registry
No. E.1359/8/31

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

Draft. D
Mr. John Higham,
Colonial Office.

*J.G.P.
from Mr. Bevin*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(33054) W.L.14890.147 75,000 6.47 A.&E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

42
7/11
15
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

26th February, 1948.

My dear John,

I believe Sherman has spoken to you about the wish of our Secretary of State to receive fortnightly reports of the progress of withdrawal from Palestine. These reports would be very short and factual and would be quite distinct from the monthly reports of the Official Committee.

The proposal that such fortnightly reports should be submitted to Ministers arose from a meeting on January 24th between the Foreign Secretary, the Colonial Secretary and the Minister of Defence. The form in which the reports should be prepared was to be as follows. Various categories of stores etc. and areas of withdrawal were to be decided upon and the total withdrawal would be regarded as 100 per cent. Each fortnightly report would, without giving details, indicate the percentage of the total withdrawal that had been completed. The Minister of Defence would furnish such reports in regard to Military withdrawal and the Colonial Secretary in regard to civilian. The final 100 per cent date would be fixed a fortnight earlier than the actual date for final withdrawal, so as to leave a margin for unexpected delays.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sherman.

JB Feb. 6

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16

FOREIGN OFFICE

7th February, 1948

(E 1359/9/31)

Restricted.

My dear John,

I believe Sherman has spoken to you about the wish of our Secretary of State to receive fortnightly reports of the progress of withdrawal from Palestine. These reports would be very short and factual and would be quite distinct from the monthly reports of the Official Committee.

The proposal that such fortnightly reports should be submitted to Ministers arose from a meeting on 24th January between the Foreign Secretary, the Colonial Secretary and the Minister of Defence. The form in which the reports should be prepared was to be as follows. Various categories of stores etc. and areas of withdrawal were to be decided upon and the total withdrawal would be regarded as 100 per cent. Each fortnightly report would, without giving details, indicate the percentage of the total withdrawal that had been completed. The Minister of Defence would furnish such reports in regard to military withdrawal and the Colonial Secretary in regard to civilian. The final 100 per cent date would be fixed a fortnight earlier than the actual date for final withdrawal, so as to leave a margin for unexpected delays.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sherman.

John D. Higham, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

J.G. (J.G. Beith)

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1359 8

31 The Church House,
Great Smith Street, E
S.W.1.

mult

My Reference 75872/159/20/48

10. February, 1948.

Your Reference E.1359/8/31

My dear John,

Please refer to your letter of the 7th February about fortnightly reports on the progress of withdrawal from Palestine. We had not received any instructions from our Secretary of State regarding the preparation of reports on the civil withdrawal, and had assumed from the minutes of the Defence Committee (D.O.(48)5th meeting, Item 3) held subsequently to the meeting of Ministers that the fortnightly reports to the three Ministers would deal only with the military withdrawal.

2. As explained in the first progress report from the Official Committee (O.C.P.(48)11), it is the intention to maintain British civil administration over the whole of Palestine until the 15th May, and not to close down any Department of Government until that date. We therefore could not produce a report on a "percentage basis" but merely an account of the general situation on the lines of O.C.P.(48)11. I gather that the Foreign Secretary does not want anything so comprehensive, but we could arrange, should he wish, to have a brief summary of the "Weekly Intelligence Appreciation" prepared fortnightly.

3./

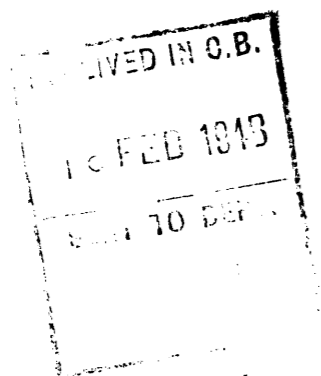
J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

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3. We are asking the High Commissioner to let us have material for the next monthly progress report of the O.C.P. not later than the 18th February.

Yours wv,

John Higham



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E

18

PALESTINE

E 170
2 FEB 1948

Registry Number: E1470/S/31
FROM: M. M. H. H.
No. M. F. P.
Dated: M. M. H. H.
Received in Registry: 28 Feb 27/6.

at M. F. P. 11/1/48
reference to letter concerning fuel shortage
sent from M. F. P. to M. M. H. H. 11/1/48
reference to letter concerning fuel shortage
sent from M. F. P. to M. M. H. H. 11/1/48
11/1/48

Last Paper.

1453

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

I have prepared a Memorandum which sets out the facts given in the Ministry of Fuel and Power's letter in a slightly different form. The information supplied by the Ministry of Fuel and Power is more in the nature of an analysis of the situation and of the difficulties which will arise rather than of a statement of the means by which we propose to remedy the situation. As far as I can gather from the Ministry of Fuel and Power, there is very little we can do owing to the shortage of tankers and we are bound to suffer a net loss of refined products.

J. G. S. Beith

J. G. S. Beith.
4th February, 1948.

Economic Relations Dept.
first.

JSB

The OCP are now working on a report on this subject which will supersede this

JSB Feb. 24

(Action completed.)

PP 7/6/48

(Index)

16/1/48

Next Paper.

J. P. P. 4.0 Minute M. Beith. 4, Feb
60. Ed 173 16/1
P. H. H. 223 20/1

JSB Feb. 25

1531

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The effect of the British withdrawal from Palestine on the production of the Haifa Refinery and the supply of petrol to the sterling area and Western Europe.

The crude throughput of the Haifa refinery is 4,000,000 tons per annum, of which 2,000,000 tons is received direct from Kirkuk by pipe-line. A further 1,000,000 tons of Iraqi oil is transported to the refinery by sea from the Tripoli terminal of the I.P.C. line and the remaining 1,000,000 tons is received by sea from the Persian Gulf (Kuwait).

The Secretary of State recently asked for a report on the alternative arrangements foreseen by the Ministry of Fuel and Power to meet the situation arising from the British withdrawal from Palestine. The production of the Haifa refinery is almost bound to be adversely affected and there are, roughly speaking, three possibilities:-

- (i) The Haifa Refinery would be put out of action for an indefinite period either by damage as a result of a Civil War between Jews and Arabs, or by the disappearance of labour owing to chaotic conditions (the Refinery has recently been put out of action for three weeks owing to such labour difficulties) but Iraqi crude oil would still be available through the pipe-lines to Haifa or Tripoli.

In that event the crude oil could only be transferred by tanker to other refineries; part would probably come to the United Kingdom.

- (ii) The Haifa Refinery would continue to be capable of operation - it has been suggested that in certain circumstances it might be necessary for British troops to be left behind to protect it - but would be denied the normal supply of Iraqi oil via the pipe-line. The Iraqi Delegation in London recently made it clear that Iraq could not continue to let this oil through to Palestine if it were to benefit the Jews in a Jewish-Arab conflict. It is also very possible that Arab

guerillas/

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guerillas would cut the pipe-line.

In that event it would be possible to continue limited operation of the refinery by replacing Iraqi crude oil by crude oil from the Persian Gulf, depending on the tanker tonnage available.

(iii) Both the Haifa Refinery and oil supplies from Iraq might be put out of action for a period owing to conditions of civil war in Palestine.

In that case we should have to endeavour to increase the refining capacity of Abadan to meet the ensuing shortage of refined products; but this would take some months and would be wasteful of tanker tonnage.

Both cases (ii) and (iii) would put a considerable extra strain on our tanker tonnage. Abadan is 3,000 miles from Haifa and that much further from Western Europe. As we are already deficient in tanker tonnage it would seem that the unavoidable result would be a serious dislocation in the supply programme of the British Oil Companies. This would not only effect the Eastern Mediterranean, since any essential requirements in that area could then only be met at the expense of other areas. A fall in the output of any refinery is in fact reflected throughout the world.

I attach a statement showing what shipments have been made from Haifa during the period 1st January to 30th November, 1947.

J. S. Bevis

(BEIT#)

4th February, 1948.

*L. S. Bevis
L. S. Bevis S/L*

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Any reply to be addressed:-
The Secretary.

Telephone **ABBEY 7000.**

Telegrams:
"MINFUPO, SOWEST, LONDON."

Reference:

Your Reference:



Enlist room 20
MINISTRY OF FUEL AND POWER

PETROLEUM DIVISION,

7, MILLBANK,

LONDON, S.W.1.

2 FEB 1948
30th January, 1948.

SECRET

Dear Beith,

You asked me on the telephone what alternative arrangements were contemplated should crude oil from Iraq be denied to Haifa refinery.

It is difficult to give a precise answer to this question as there are so many imponderables of which to take account.

The crude throughput of the refinery is 4,000,000 tons per annum, of which 2,000,000 tons is received direct from Kirkuk by pipe-line. A further 1,000,000 tons of Iraq oil is transported to the refinery by sea from the Tripoli terminal of the I. P. C. line and the remaining 1,000,000 tons is received by sea from the Persian Gulf (Kuwait).

There are two ways in which the situation could be met.

- (1) To keep the refinery going by replacing Iraq crude by crude from the Persian Gulf.
- (2) To endeavour to step up the refining capacity at Abadan to meet the shortage of refined products, on the assumption that Haifa refinery ceased to operate wholly or partially. This would take some months.

J. G. S. Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
Downing St. S.W. 1.

/In

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In both cases the difficulty would be to find the additional tanker tonnage required owing to the additional 3,000 miles that either crude or refined products would have to be transported. As we are already deficient in tanker tonnage, it would seem that the inevitable result of the denial of Iraq crude to Haifa would be a serious dislocation in the British oil companies' supply programme. Nor would this be only in the eastern Mediterranean since any requirements in that area that had to be met could only be met at the expense of other areas. A fall in the output of any refinery is in fact reflected throughout the world.

I enclose a statement showing what shipments have been made from Haifa during the period 1st January to 30th November, 1947.

Yours sincerely,

W. A. G. ...

RECEIVED IN C.B.
2 FEB 1948
SENT TO DEPT.
2 - FEB 1948

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SHIPMENTS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM HAIFA DURING JANUARY/NOVEMBER, 1947.

TONS.

21

SECTION I - STERLING AREA.

United Kingdom 135,051
 Gibraltar 884
 Malta 13,397
 Cyprus -
 Egypt 23,360
 Services 54,470
 Local - Civil & Military 154,111
 Bunkers -

TOTAL

SECTION II - FOREIGN AREA.
BR. ACCOUNT.

Norway -
 Germany 10,709
 Belgium 4,559
 Switzerland -
 Greece 72,650
 Turkey 24,884
 Syria 11,703
 Egypt -
 Libya 3,008
 Algeria -
 Azores -

TOTAL

AMERICAN ACCOUNT.

Holland -
 Italy 30,635
 Greece 43,161
 Turkey 25,832
 Syria 16,400
 Egypt -
 Libya 953
 Algeria -
 Spanish Morocco -

TOTAL

GRAND TOTAL

	Motor Spirit	Kerosine	Gas Oil	Marine Diesel Oil	Light Fuel Oil	Heavy Fuel Oil	S.B.P. Bensine	Total
United Kingdom	135,051	17,501	19,496	2	46,180	13,766	-	231,996
Gibraltar	884	-	-	-	-	-	-	884
Malta	13,397	19,326	8,455	-	-	28,808	-	69,986
Cyprus	-	-	23,864	-	7,838	-	-	31,702
Egypt	23,360	54,033	56,015	61,586	264,718	360,972	-	820,684
Services	54,470	-	33,539	-	-	-	-	88,009
Local - Civil & Military	154,111	112,359	110,911	5,229	299,423	-	860	642,893
Bunkers	-	-	10,618	90,551	136,476	204,832	-	442,477
TOTAL	381,273	203,219	262,898	157,368	714,635	608,378	860	2,328,631
Norway	-	-	848	-	0	-	-	848
Germany	10,709	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,709
Belgium	4,559	2,809	8,267	5,724	-	-	-	21,359
Switzerland	-	-	4,561	-	-	-	-	4,561
Greece	72,650	14,453	50,325	-	84,777	114,789	-	336,994
Turkey	24,884	18,496	12,031	-	5,927	-	-	61,338
Syria	11,703	6,215	11,379	-	-	-	-	29,297
Egypt	-	21,285	9,703	19,369	61,829	65,047	-	177,233
Libya	3,008	1,561	3,485	-	1,956	-	-	10,010
Algeria	-	-	-	-	25,369	-	-	25,369
Azores	-	-	-	3,007	6,570	-	-	9,577
TOTAL	127,513	64,819	100,599	28,100	186,428	179,836	-	687,295
Holland	-	-	10,017	-	-	14,375	-	24,392
Italy	30,635	2,355	3,171	-	10,181	25,014	-	71,356
Greece	43,161	9,736	35,887	-	12,931	-	-	101,715
Turkey	25,832	8,440	15,775	-	5,965	-	-	56,012
Syria	16,400	13,103	17,916	-	-	-	-	47,419
Egypt	-	7,511	3,626	3,002	38,741	50,610	-	103,490
Libya	953	1,846	4,003	-	4,419	-	-	11,221
Algeria	-	10,838	-	-	49,772	6,164	-	66,774
Spanish Morocco	-	-	-	-	52,780	73,919	-	126,699
TOTAL	116,981	53,829	90,395	3,002	174,789	170,082	-	609,078
GRAND TOTAL	625,767	321,867	453,892	188,470	1,075,852	958,296	860	3,625,004

W. J. P.
27/1/48

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INDEXED *pw*

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

76532/48
Code

51470/8 R1

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)
FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.
Sent 16th January, 1948. 10.45 hrs.

No. 173

Your telegram No. 51.
Haifa Refinery.

An enquiry has been made by Dr. Khalil, General Secretary of the Palestine Arab Workers' Society, who is at present spending a few months in this country, regarding steps he might take to intercede in London on behalf of members of his Society who have represented to him that Consolidated Refineries are following a policy of discharging their Arab workers and replacing them by Jews. He has been informed that there is no information here to confirm this report but that it would be investigated and he would be advised on action which it was open to him to take.

- 2. Grateful for your comments on this report and advice as to the line to be taken with Khalil.
 - 3. Khalil also indicated that objects of his wish to United Kingdom are
 - (a) to get in touch with trade unions here and learn something about their organisation and methods;
 - (b) to study at a London hospital.
- Assume you would wish him to be given any possible assistance.

Copies sent to:-

- Foreign Office - Mr. Beith.
- War Office - Lt. Col. Charteris.
- Admiralty - Mr. Dodds.
- Ministry of Fuel & Power - Mr. Wilkie.
- (Petroleum Divn.) - Mr. S.J. Gall.
- " " " " -

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (C.T.P.)

INDEXED

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 30th January, 1948.
R. 20th " " 12.50 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 225.

Your telegram No. 173.

Batfa Refineries are at 25% of normal production and expect to reach 50% by end of the week. Further two weeks to reach full production if no further labour difficulties. About 150 Arabs and 300 Jews are working. Normal proportion of Arabs to Jews in a total of 2,000 is 70-30. Staff now working is mainly production as opposed to maintenance. The greater proportion of labour in Area has not yet returned. Unlike what C.M.L. is trying to replace Arabs by Jews and they hope to get back to normal proportion in due course. The main difficulty is convincing Arabs to work, but police and Army are doing their best to assist. Situation between Arab and Jew workers is still rather tense and another incident would probably put the clock back. If present position can be maintained or improved C.M.L. do not anticipate a general shortage of its products, though local shortages and transportation difficulties may persist owing to general security conditions.

2. Separate reply follows regarding Doctor Khalil (your paragraph 3 refers).

Copy sent to:-

Min. of Fuel and Power (Petroleum Divn.)	-	Mr. S.J. Gall
" " "	-	Mr. Wilkie.
Foreign Office	-	Mr. Beith.
War Office	-	Lt. Col. Charteris.
Admiralty	-	Mr. Dodds.

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E 155

PALESTINE

4 FEB 1948

1948

Registry Number } E1556/8/31
 FROM } Parkes, My Director
 No. } (L. Dow)
 Dated } 28 Jan.
 Received in Registry } 4 Feb.

Stores & Equipment in Palestine.
 L. Dow. asked of SGS for Am what was the tonnage of RAF stores & equipment in Palestine & how much was to be evacuated before Aug 1948. L. Henderson replied that there were about 25,000 tons of RAF stores which it was hoped to evacuate before Aug 1948.

Last Paper.

E 1531.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

2/27 L. Pumphey (No 10)
 L. Wood (No 10) for 27.
 9 A.K. Del New York 31
 9 W Yan 162
 Feb 6

(Action completed.)

PCMB 11/2

(Index.)

11/2

Next Paper.

E 1554

(Minutes.)

See with
 letter for L. Pumphey (No 10) & L. Reddaway for 27.
 - L. Wood (L. Defense) to L. Beach for 31
 - L. Pumphey (No 10) & L. Wood (in presence) Feb 1.
 Copy P.Q. 2 to
 UK, Del. N.York & Washin. JB Feb 4

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E 155E 25
Parliamentary Question

4 FEB 1948

* I. Mr. Low.—To ask the Secretary of State for Air, what is the tonnage of R.A.F. stores and equipment now in Palestine; and how much is to be evacuated prior to August 1948

Air Ministry's draft reply.

There were about 25,000 tons of R.A.F. stores and equipment in Palestine on 1st January. Some 2,500* tons are being declared to the Ministry of Supply for disposal, and it is hoped to evacuate the rest before August, 1948.
*900 vehicles.

Wednesday, Jan. 28th.

Eastern Dept. do not like the Air Ministry's proposed draft reply. They have redrafted it as follows:-

There were about 25,000 tons of R.A.F. stores and equipment in Palestine on 1st January and it is hoped to evacuate almost the whole of this before August, 1948. The question of the disposal of any equipment that may remain is at present under consideration.

Stores and Equipment,
Palestine

101. Mr. A. R. W. Low asked the Secretary of State for Air what is the tonnage of R.A.F. stores and equipment now in Palestine; and how much is to be evacuated prior to August, 1948.

Mr. A. Henderson: There were about 25,000 tons of R.A.F. stores and equipment in Palestine on 1st January, and it is hoped to evacuate almost the whole of this before August, 1948. The question of the disposal of any equipment that may remain is at present under consideration.

Jan 27
Eastern Dept.

Any comments?

Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister.

ANSWERED 28 JAN 1948
REPLY [unclear]

(A)

(156)

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

27th January, 1948.

Dear Laurie,

You will remember that, in the Secretary of State's absence, questions about Palestine have to be referred to the Prime Minister.

Attached is a draft reply prepared by the Air Ministry, on which we were consulted, and which is down for tomorrow (Wednesday). Sir O. Sargent would rather see the version marked 'A'. Mr. Henniker has suggested that we should have the Prime Minister's comments.

*John Storer
Home.*

(G.F.N. Reddaway.)

L. Pumphrey Esq.

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PW

27

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

1556 8 31

27th January, 1948

Immediate.

RECORDED

My dear Norman,

Thank you for your letter of the 27th January enclosing draft replies to three Parliamentary Questions down for tomorrow, Wednesday.

The Prime Minister has approved Eastern Department's redrafted reply to Mr. Low's Question about R.A.F. Stores in Palestine. He has also approved the Ministry of Defence's draft reply to the third Question (Sir Peter Macdonald's on the Middle East Base). As regards the second Question, he has seen an alternative draft reply which has been recommended to the Minister of Defence and which reads as follows: -

19. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas Moore.—To ask the Minister of Defence, if it is still the intention of His Majesty's Government to retain our troops in Palestine until 31st August; and what instructions he has now issued as to their behaviour during the period concerned. As regards the functions of the forces remaining in Palestine until that date, I would refer the Hon. and gallant Member to the speech made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies on 11th December, 1947. I am sure the

House...

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PW

27



10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

27th January, 1948

Immediate.

My dear Norman.

Thank you for your letter of the 27th January enclosing draft replies to three Parliamentary Questions down for tomorrow, Wednesday.

The Prime Minister has approved Eastern Department's redrafted reply to Mr. Low's Question about R.A.F. Stores in Palestine. He has also approved the Ministry of Defence's draft reply to the third Question (Sir Peter Macdonald's on the Middle East Base). As regards the second Question, he has seen an alternative draft reply which has been recommended to the Minister of Defence and which reads as follows: -

"As has already been announced, August 1st is the date by which it is planned to complete the evacuation of our forces from Palestine. As regards the functions of the forces remaining in Palestine until that date, I would refer the Hon. and gallant Member to the speech made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies on 11th December, 1947. I am sure the

House...

ask the Secretary of State for Air, what was the value of food p...
omes and stations in 1945 and 1946, respectively; and if it is prop...
ction for 1948, in view of the food crisis.

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House will agree that the troops are carrying out their difficult task in a manner deserving of the highest commendation."

Note A revised directive to the G.O.C. Palestine covering the period 15th May - 1st August has been drawn up but has not yet been submitted to the Defence Committee. After the Mandate has been given up the troops in Palestine will, of course, be concerned only with evacuating themselves and their stores.

The Prime Minister prefers this second draft to the one originally submitted under your letter.

Yours ever
Laurence P. Reddaway

G.F.N. Reddaway, Esq. M.B.E.
 Foreign Office

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29

31st January, 1948

Dear Beards,

Mr. Low has a question on the Order Paper for answer on Monday, 2nd February, addressed to the Minister of Transport, asking for what tonnage of Service Departments' stores, scheduled to be evacuated from Palestine, will shipping be available in each month of 1948.

The Ministry of Transport have consulted us and the draft answer given below has been prepared and cleared departmentally with the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office. In the case of the Colonial Office I gather that the Secretary of State has also approved, but since, as you know, the Foreign Secretary is away and my Minister is in his constituency, we cannot consult Mr. Bevin or Mr. Alexander in person. In these circumstances I am passing the draft answer to you with the suggestion that you should lay it before the Prime Minister.

The draft answer is as follows:-

"It would not be in the public interest to disclose details of the evacuation plans while the operation is in progress, but I

P.F.R. Beards, Esq.

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30

can assure the hon. Member that my Ministry is arranging to make available the quantity of shipping required by the Service Departments for their planned evacuation of stores from Palestine."

I am sending copies of this letter to Dickinson, Watson, and McAlpine.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD F. WOOD

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pn. 31

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

1st February, 1948.

In Beards' absence I am replying to your letter of the 31st January containing a draft answer to a Question put down by Mr. Low for Monday, 2nd February.

The Prime Minister approves the draft answer.

I am sending copies of this letter to Dickinson, Watson and McAlpine.

(Sgd.) J.L. PUMPHREY.

Richard F. Wood, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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E 1557

1548

4 FEB 1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E1557/S/31

FROM Parliamentary Questions
(Dr Col. Sutcliffe)

Dated 28th Jan
Received in Registry 4 Feb

British troops in Palestine.

Dr Col. Sutcliffe asked if troops would be retained in Palestine until 31st Aug. & what conclusions had been arrived at re their behaviour during recent operations. Mr. Alexo de Ryke said that Aug 1st was the date by which arrangements should be completed. Dr Col. Sutcliffe then asked Mr. S. Silver, Mr. S. Hughes & Mr. G. Hughes about supply of troops.

Last Paper.

E1557

(Minutes.)

References.

See within copy of letter from Mr. Samuel (h.c.)
to Mr. Wood (m/d/Defence) Jan 27.
Copy ^{PA} (with Oct. 2 written) Feb. 4
(N York)

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

4/ 4/11 New York
no 35
9, W York no 163
Feb 6

(Action completed.)

[Signature] 7/2

(Index.)

[Signature] 24/1/48

Next Paper.

1593

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34

Parliamentary Question 157 ✓

4 FEB 1948

- * 16. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas Moore.—To ask the Minister of Defence, if it is still the intention of His Majesty's Government to retain our troops in Palestine until 31st August; and what instructions he has now issued as to their behaviour during the period concerned.

ANSWERED 28 JAN 1948
REPLY ATTACHED.

Ministry of Defence draft reply.

As already announced, it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to complete the withdrawal, now in progress, of the British troops from Palestine by 1st August.

As to the second part of the Question, no instructions have been issued by His Majesty's Government varying the role of the British forces pending the completion of the evacuation, and I am sure the House will agree that the troops are carrying out their difficult task in a manner deserving of the highest commendation.

Wednesday, January 28th.

To Jan 27
Eastern Dept.

Any comments?

1003/4

- *101. Sir Peter Macdonald.—To ask the Minister of Defence, whether any decision has yet been reached regarding our new Middle East Base; and if he will make a statement. *

Ministry of Defence draft reply.

No, Sir.

Wednesday Jan. 28th.

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WEDNESDAY, 28TH JANUARY, 1948.

35

* QUESTION:

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR THOMAS MOORE:-

To ask the Minister of Defence, if it is still the intention of His Majesty's Government to retain our troops in Palestine until 31st August; and what instructions he has now issued as to their behaviour during the period concerned.

MR. ALEXANDER:-

Alternative 'A'

As already announced, it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to complete the withdrawal, now in progress, of the British troops from Palestine by 1st August. As to the second part of the question, no instructions have been issued by His Majesty's Government varying the role of the British forces pending completion of the evacuation; I am sure the House will agree that the troops are carrying out their difficult task in a manner deserving of the highest commendation.

Alternative 'B'

As has already been announced, August 1st is the date by which it is planned to complete the evacuation of our forces from Palestine. As regards the functions of the forces remaining in Palestine until that date, I would refer the hon. and gallant Member to the speech made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies on 11th December 1947. I am sure the House will agree that the troops are carrying out their difficult task in a manner deserving of the highest commendation.

Mr. Pumphrey.

*I am putting
both these versions
to Mr. Alexander
to get with a
bias in favour
of "B".*

P.P.

371

X

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NOTE:

A revised directive to the G.O.C. Palestine covering the period 15th May - 1st August has been drawn up but has not yet been submitted to the Defence Committee. After the Mandate has been given up the troops in Palestine will, of course, be concerned only with evacuating themselves and their stores.

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37

Forces, Palestine (Functions)

46. **Sir T. Moore** asked the Minister of Defence if it is still the intention of His Majesty's Government to retain our troops in Palestine until 1st August; and what instructions he has now issued as to their behaviour during the period concerned.

Mr. Alexander: As has already been announced, 1st August is the date by which it is planned to complete the evacuation of our Forces from Palestine. As regards the functions of the Forces remaining in Palestine until that date, I would refer the hon. and gallant Member to the speech made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies on 11th December, 1947. I am sure the House will agree that the troops are carrying out their difficult task in a manner deserving of the highest commendation.

Sir T. Moore: Of course, Mr. Speaker, the House agrees with the right hon. Gentleman, but in view of the fact that Jewish terrorists have apparently intensified their murderous attacks on British

troops, will not the Government reconsider their decision, and evacuate them sooner than 1st August?

Mr. Alexander: I have nothing on that point to add to my answer.

Mr. S. Silverman: In view of the developments in Palestine since the speech referred to, can my right hon. Friend say whether the Government propose to continue their policy in Palestine of making no distinction whatever between those who are defending the United Nations decision and those who are attacking it?

Mr. Speaker: The Question merely deals with the retention of troops and nothing else.

Mr. Emrys Hughes: Is the Minister aware of the statement made in today's paper that 500 cases of Scotch whisky were seized by Arabs in a train held up yesterday, and will he consider making arrangements to ban these exports?

Mr. Speaker: The Question has nothing to do with Jews or Arabs, but is about our troops.

28 JAN 1948

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E. J. P.

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27th January, 1948

My dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for sending me the alternative draft reply to Sir Thomas Moore's Question, put down for tomorrow, which you have recommended to the Minister of Defence. The Prime Minister likes this alternative better than the original, and I am so informing the Foreign Office.

*Yours sincerely,
D. G. P.*

Richard Wood, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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<p>1948</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E1593 /G FEB 1948 39</p>
<p>E1593 18/31/G Cabinet Office COS(48) 15th MFQ Min H Dated 30 Jan</p>	<p>Progress report on withdrawal from Palestine COS(48)22(0)</p>	
<p>Last Paper (E1531)</p>	<p>(Minutes) S. L. ... 19.ii.</p>	
<p>References</p>	<p>Mr. Beins Feb. 4 L. M. Ryan 7/2</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>	<p>BAB 13 9.2</p>	
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5 FEB 1948 S/S Foreign Affairs.

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CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

C.O.S. (48) 15th Meeting, Item
held Friday at 11 30^{am} 1948.

An extract from the above
minutes is attached.

(Signed) D. C. STAPLETON.

Ministry of Defence, **E1593**
S.W.1.

31-1-48 - 1948. 1948

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4. PALESTINE - PLANS FOR WITHDRAWAL - REPORT FOR
DECEMBER, 1947

C.O.S. (48) 22 (0) - ✓

(Previous Reference: C.O.S. (43) 2nd Meeting, Minute 10)

The secretary was informed of the approval of the
Chiefs of Staff to the First Monthly Progress Report on the
military evacuation of Palestine for the period 1st December,
1947 to 1st January, 1948, and the Minister of Defence was
accordingly informed.

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C.O.S.(48)22(0)

26TH JANUARY, 1948

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

1st Monthly Progress Report on the Evacuation
of Palestine - Period 1 Dec 47 to 1 Jan 48

General Progress of Withdrawal (As at 7 Jan)

1. The withdrawal is proceeding satisfactorily in accordance with Plan 'A'+, except for some initial delay in evacuation of stores from Haifa which was due to temporary shortage of shipping. Civil disturbances have not impeded the course of evacuation of personnel and stores. Some difficulty, which may increase, is however being experienced through the congestion at the port due to the reluctance of the civilians to clear imports from it.

2. The evacuation of GAZA Civil District (less RAFA) which is Phase I of the plan of withdrawal is in progress and is due to be completed by 29 February (see Map).

Details of Evacuation of personnel, stores and vehicles

3. Units withdrawn from Palestine up to 7 Jan are shown on Map.

4. Diagrams are attached at Appendix 'A' showing:-

- (a) Service personnel already evacuated and total to be evacuated (as at 7 Jan).
- (b) Tonnage of Army and R.A.F. stores already moved, and total to be moved.
- (c) Number of Army and R.A.F. vehicles already evacuated and total to be evacuated.
- (d) Amount of ammunition and explosives already destroyed and total amount to be destroyed

Casualties

5. Service casualties during the period were as follows:

Killed - 1 Officer and 23 O.Rs.
Wounded - 92 All Ranks.
+ 186/CCL

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Progress in disbandment of Transjordan Frontier Force

6. On 15 January all units of the TJFF in Palestine were withdrawn to Transjordan preparatory to disbandment. Control of this force will revert from the War Office to the Colonial Office on 1 February.

Progress in evacuation of Families

7. Only three women have been evacuated during the period. There still remain 69 women 48 children of whom 6 women and 10 children are civilian families whose evacuation is a military responsibility.

Shipping

8. Although some extra shipping was made available it was not possible in the time to obtain sufficient to meet the full demands of the plan during this period. More shipping is now becoming available and it is hoped to show a considerable increase of tonnage moved in January (see diagram II, Appx 'A').

Railways

9. Railways are working well and to capacity.

General review of progress of disposals

10. The percentage of camps and hired installations released during the period are as follows:-

- (a) GAZA Sub District 80%
- (b) East Palestine Sub District 5%
- (c) North Palestine District 5%
- (d) South Palestine District 10%

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, S.W.1.

26TH JANUARY, 1948.

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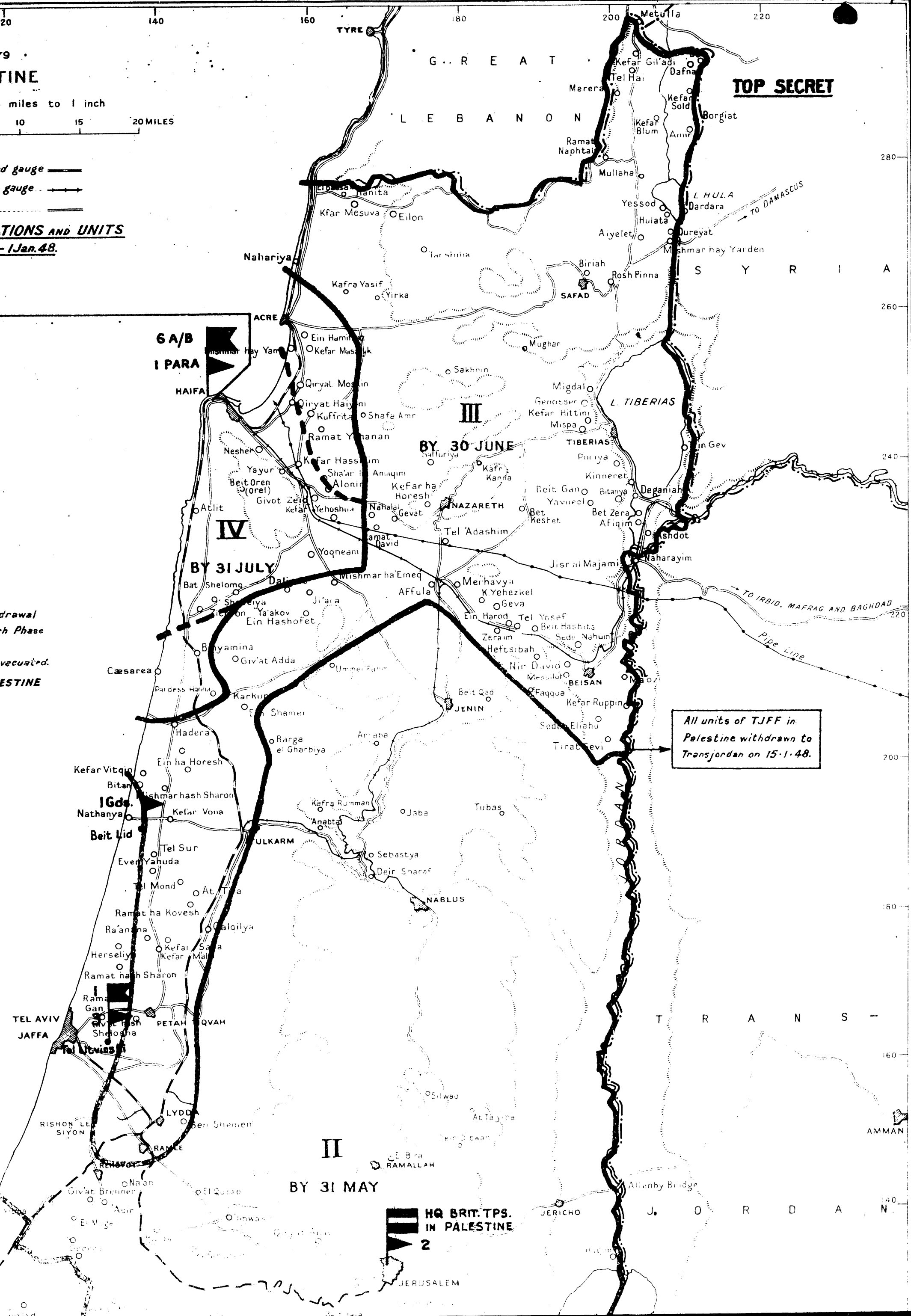
O.R. 5979
PALESTINE
 Scale 1:500,000 or 8 miles to 1 inch
 MILES 5 0 5 10 15 20 MILES

Railways, standard gauge ———
 " narrow gauge ———
 Motor Roads ———

EVACUATION OF FORMATIONS AND UNITS
 Period 1 Dec. 47 - 1 Jan. 48.

MAJOR UNITS
 Evacuated during Period
 7 Para Bn.
 58 Med. Regt.
 81 Fd. Regt.
 2 Para Bn. disbanded

NOTE:-
 RED (a) Phases of Plan of Withdrawal showing dates by which each Phase should be completed.
 (b) Formations and units evacuated.
 GREEN Formations still in PALESTINE

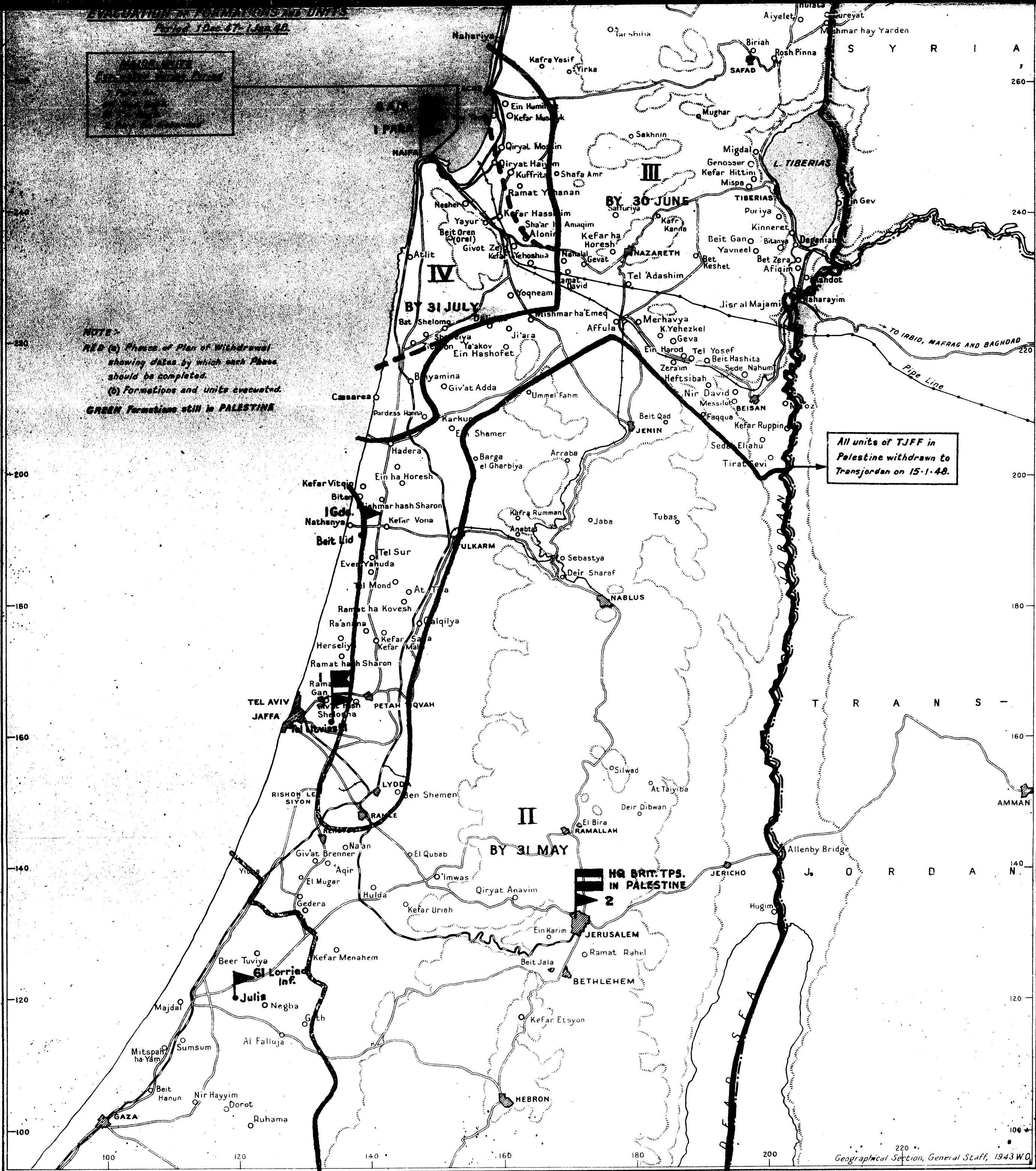


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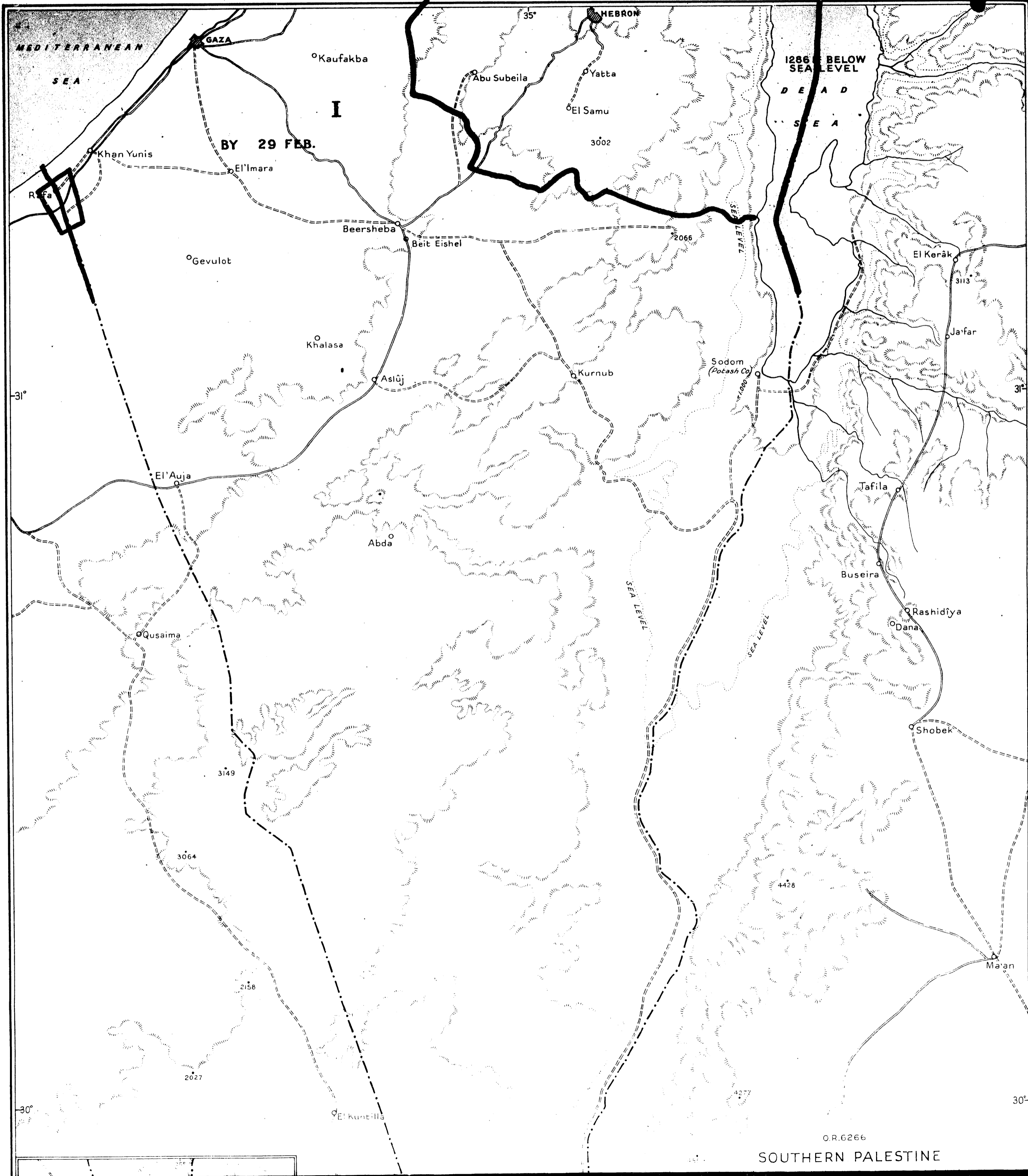
NOTE
 (a) Phases of Plan of Withdrawal showing dates by which each Phase should be completed.
 (b) Formations and units evacuated.
GREEN Formations still in PALESTINE



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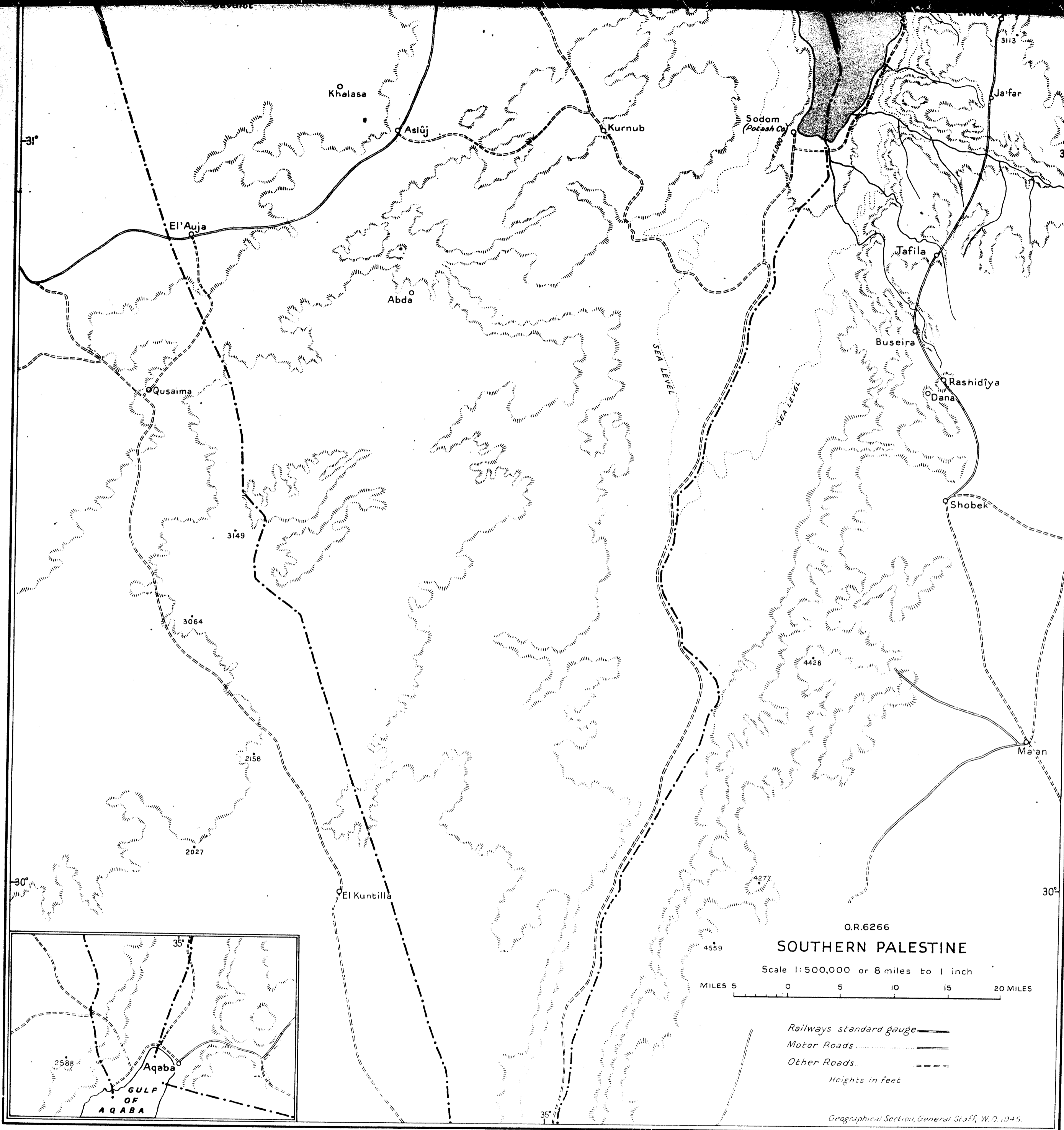
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WITHDRAWAL FROM PALESTINE UP TO 1st Jan. 1948

DIAGRAM I
Service personnel evacuated and total to be evacuated. (incl. RAF)

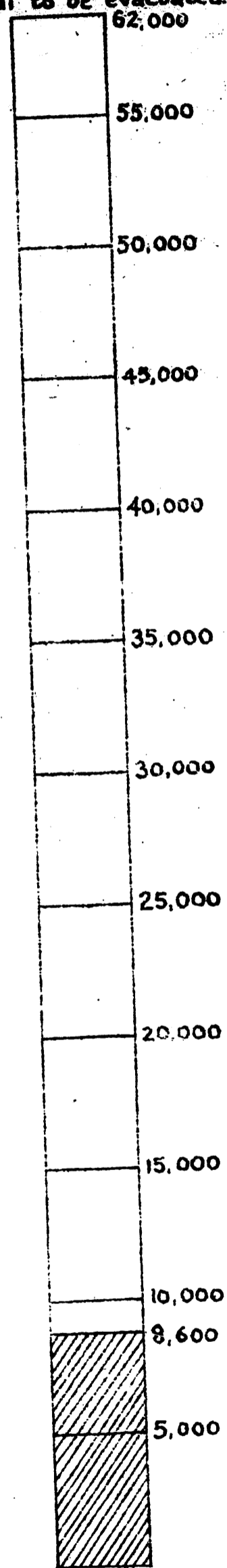


DIAGRAM II
Tonnage of stores moved and total to be moved. (incl. RAF)

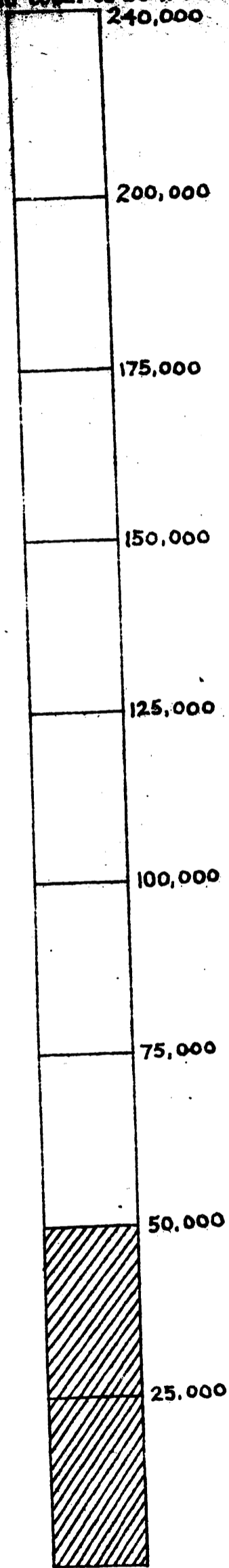
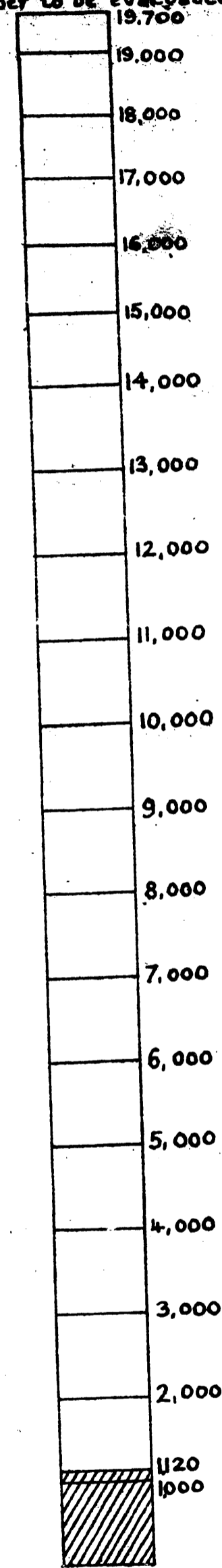


DIAGRAM III
Number of Vehs. evacuated and number to be evacuated. (incl. RAF)



Note:- Shaded portions of diagrams represent the proportion and amounts of personnel and stores evacuated and explosives destroyed.

DIAGRAM III

Number of Vehs. evacuated and number to be evacuated (incl. RAF)

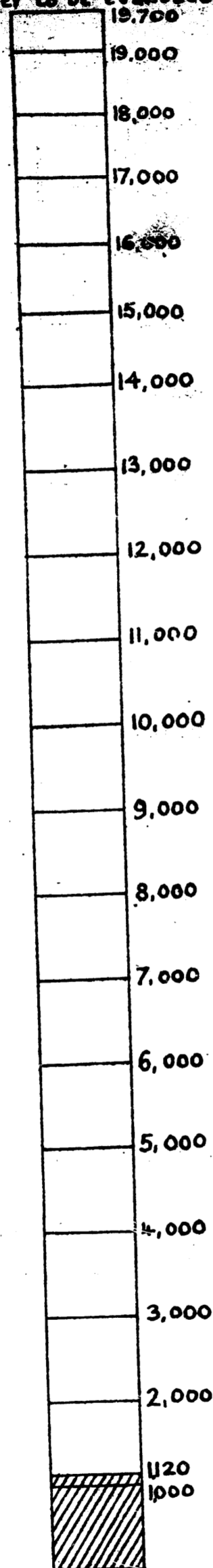
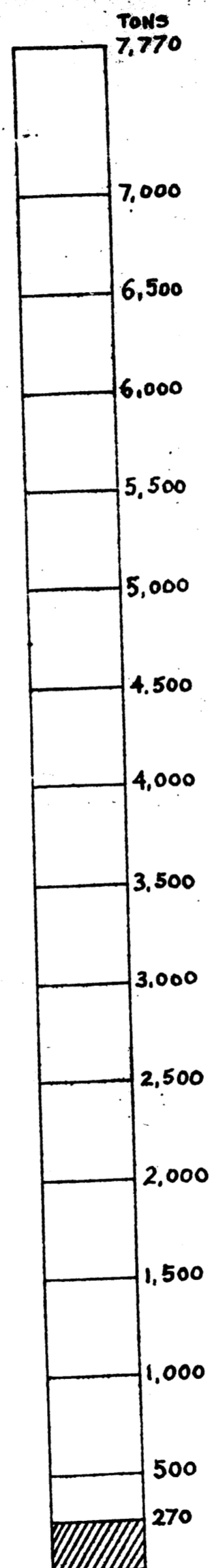


DIAGRAM IV

Amount of ammunition & explosives destroyed and total to be destroyed.



of diagrams represent the proportion and amounts of evacuated and explosives destroyed.

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PALESTINE

5 FEB 1948

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 FROM } Cabinet Office
 No. } 100000
 Dated }
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Report of British House.
 Copy of letter from Sir H. ...

Last Paper.

1593

(Minutes.)

References.

Mr. Bealey

D. S. ...
Feb. 10

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(Print.)

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J. E. M. 3/3

(Index.)

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Copy for Mr. Beith

48 E
encl

E 1030

5 FEB 1948

Cabinet Office,
Great George Street,
S.W.1.

SECRET

3rd February, 1948.

Dear Ruck,

Disposal of Warlike Stores in
Overseas Theatres

You will recall that at the Illegal Immigration Working Party meeting on Monday, 2nd February, I said I would look into the question of what arrangements existed for the disposal of surplus warlike stores in overseas theatres, and in particular whether such arrangements adequately safeguarded the possible sale of British surplus warlike stores to foreign firms acting on behalf of Jewish or Arab organisations in Palestine.

I attach at Annex a note on the existing arrangements from which it will be seen that demands for warlike stores are carefully screened in London before provision is agreed. Furthermore, in overseas theatres, warlike stores which are surplus to military requirements are demilitarised (or destroyed) before local Ministry of Supply representatives take them over. Thus in theory Ministry of Supply representatives overseas do not handle transactions affecting warlike stores, since it is the responsibility of Service Ministries in London to ensure that all such stores are fully demilitarised before transfer to the Ministry of Supply for disposal.

It would therefore appear that local Ministry of Supply representatives in overseas theatres are not responsible for defining the term "warlike stores" since all the stores handled by them have been demilitarised and are thus non-warlike.

Although you may feel that the position is not fully safeguarded I suggest that there is little more we can do in the matter at present. The Ministry of Supply are fully satisfied that existing arrangements are entirely adequate, although they are keeping a careful watch on the situation.

I am sending copies of this note to Beith of the Foreign Office, Higham of the Colonial Office, Rennie of the Ministry of Transport, Dodds of the Admiralty, Scherr and Milne.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) G. C. Sherman.

G. F. J. Ruck, Esq.,
Home Office.

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A N N E X

Note on the Disposal of Warlike
Stores in Overseas Theatres

All demands from foreign governments or foreign firms for warlike stores are carefully screened in London before provision is agreed. The points watched are:-

- (a) Will their provision prejudice the British Service requirements;
- (b) Will their provision embarrass us, either militarily or politically;
- (c) Are the items necessary in the light of the role which we envisage for the forces concerned. This applies particularly to countries where we are committed to assist in the development or training of armed forces.

2. The system for dealing with these demands has recently been changed to speed up negotiations and to take into account the further problem of reopening production when demands cannot be met from existing service stocks. In the past screening was carried out within the Ministry concerned, who consulted the Foreign Office if there was liable to be any political objection. In addition, in the case of Middle East countries, the Foreign Office were again consulted immediately prior to delivery to ensure that there was no political objection to the date selected.

3. A standing inter-departmental committee is now being formed as a sub-committee of the Joint War Production Staff, with a Ministry of Defence Chairman and Secretary, and with representatives of the Service departments, Ministry of Supply, Board of Trade, Treasury and Foreign Office. All future requests for equipment for armed forces will be examined by the appropriate Service department in conjunction with the Ministry of Supply (or the Admiralty, as appropriate) to see whether they can be met from stocks or whether new production is necessary. The new committee will then decide whether or not to recommend supply, balancing the political, military and economic factors. The Overseas Negotiations Committee will then be consulted. In the event of disagreement between the new committee and the Overseas Negotiations Committee the case may, if the Joint War Production Staff think necessary, be referred to the Defence Committee.

4. As regards non-warlike stores, the Service authorities declare surpluses to the Ministry of Supply, or, in overseas theatres, to the Ministry of Supply representative. In normal circumstances the stores are held by the Services until the Ministry of Supply or the local representative

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arranges for sale. Warlike stores which are surplus to requirements and cannot be disposed of as such are either destroyed or demilitarised and dealt with in a similar manner to non-warlike stores. Thus the Ministry of Supply or its representative overseas theoretically does not handle transactions of stores of military value.

5. The overseas representatives of the Ministry of Supply have general directions from the Ministry regarding the conditions of disposal. For instance, they are not allowed to sell aircraft except on instructions from London; they must consider British trading interests and consult representatives of local governments and trade organisations; they should give priority of purchase to local governments and departments. Finally they should avoid selling anything to parties which are likely to form sides in a local dispute, thus causing an embarrassment to His Majesty's Government. The difficulty in applying this consideration will be appreciated since, no matter what the credentials of the original purchaser, there can be no guarantee that the material will not find its way into the hands of "undesirable" parties by subsequent resale.

6. The position in Palestine requires special treatment in that there will be a quantity of equipment surplus to Service requirements and also equipment which, though required by us, cannot be evacuated in the time available. The latter category of course will be mainly warlike stores. Again there is neither the time nor the men available to demilitarise any large quantity of warlike stores, thus enabling them to be disposed of through the Ministry of Supply representative.

7. In view of the special circumstances the Ministry of Defence sent out General Hower to give what advice and assistance he could on the spot.

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5 FEB 1948

Registry Number

E 1634/8/31

FROM

to Mr. Mackenzie

No.

10.

Dated

6.11.47

Received in Registry

8.7.48

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Withdrawal of both Communications
by Mr. Mackenzie of 11.11.47 which related
to the meeting of the Committee of the
1/12/47. See comments.

Last Paper.

1630

(Minutes.)

MB 92

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

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G.E.H. 6/2

(Index.)

24/1/48

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SECRET

The Church House,
Gt. Smith Street,
London, S.W. 1.

February 5, 1948.

E-163
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My Reference

Your Reference

E 163

5 FEB 1948

My dear Bailey,

--- I enclose the first draft of a paper which my secretary of state wishes to circulate to his colleagues before the Cabinet meeting scheduled for the evening of the 5th February. This draft has not yet been seen by my secretary of state. I shall be glad to have as soon as possible any comments you may have to make.

I am sending a copy of the draft to Luke at the Cabinet Offices.

Yours truly,

A. A. Mathieson

(A.A.C. Mathieson)

H. BAILEY, Esq., CBE.

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DRAFT

P A L E S T I N E

WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Memo. by Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The United Nations Commission have been informed, and it has been publicly announced, that it is our intention to terminate British civil administration in Palestine on the 15th May 1948. The possibility of advancing this date was recently re-examined by me in conjunction with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence, and we reached the conclusion that the repercussions on the military plan of selecting an earlier date could not be accepted.

2. British civil administration is still being maintained over the whole of Palestine, and it is not the present intention to close down any Department before the termination of the Mandate. In the present disturbed conditions, however, the range and effectiveness of certain departmental functions are necessarily restricted and difficulty is being encountered through the reluctance of ^{Jewish and Arab} Palestinian staff to report for duty through fear of molestation by members of the other community. This tendency has been most noticeable in Jerusalem, although in the last ^{two} weeks improvement in

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attendances of local staff has been continuous.

3. Although full responsibility is maintained by the Mandatory Government, steps are being taken to devolve certain functions of government on the local inhabitants. Palestinians are being appointed to perform the duties of British administrative officers as the latter proceed on leave. Legislation is being prepared to give local authorities wider powers, e.g., of taxation, and certain essential public utilities are being handed over to them. In the field of public security local arrangements are also being made. British police have been withdrawn from the Tel-Aviv area and, except for divisional headquarters, from Nablus, Hebron, Jericho, and certain isolated police posts in northern Palestine. In the former area responsibility for internal security has been handed over to a Jewish Guard Force maintained by the Jewish Agency and in the latter districts responsibility is carried by the Arabs of the Palestine Police Force under British command. In these Arab areas the local police have been reinforced by some British troops for general security. An Arab Municipal police force has been set up in Jaffa and arrangements are in hand for establishing similar forces in 18 other Arab towns. By the end of February it is hoped to have formed in Jerusalem a Municipal police force of /600,

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600, half Jew and half Arab. A countrywide scheme for the enrolment of armed special constables to police Arab villages has been started. All these forces remain under the direction of the Inspector-General of Police and will only pass fully to local control on the termination of the Mandate.

4. The evacuation of British officials and their families has begun. Since the 1st February, 51 British officials, and 12 wives and 5 children of British officials have left Palestine. 370 berths have been reserved for British officers of the Administration and their families for February and during March and April 200 will sail every fortnight from Haifa. The balance of 400 will leave Palestine in smaller contingents by vessels carrying the orange crop and by air. It is intended that all British wives and children of officials shall be out of the country one month before the termination of the Mandate.
5. The commercial activity of the country has been severely restricted. Labour difficulties have been encountered where Arabs and Jews normally work together and there is consequently some congestion in Haifa and Jaffa ports. The citrus export programme is somewhat behind schedule but prospects of completion are fair if the present rate is maintained. The export of citrus is not impeding the planned military withdrawal. Railways continue to operate but road /transport

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transport is considerably restricted. Difficulty is being experienced through the shortage of oil fuel due to the temporary ^{stoppage} ~~shortage~~ at the Haifa refineries. ^{the} Work on a small scale was resumed on the 22nd January and if there are no further set-backs full production should be attained within 3 weeks.

6. There is a noticeable decline in the collection of revenue. As the assessment of the terminal liabilities of the Palestine Government proceeds, it is becoming evident that its available balances will not suffice to meet all commitments. A deficit of at least £4,000,000 is expected. This can be mainly attributed to heavy expenses involved in meeting the costs of the Cyprus camps and in payment of terminal benefits to Government servants.

7. Units of the Transjordan Arab Legion in Palestine, who are to be returned to Transjordan before the termination of the civil government, are employed in static guard and escort duty and ^{not} in dealing with communal disorders. Disarmament and disbandment of the Transjordan Frontier Force has now begun at its base at Zerka in Transjordan. Transjordanians and Syrians will be discharged there and will not enter Palestine. Egyptians and Palestinians will be discharged at Samakh in Palestine. It is intended to repatriate to their countries of origin all those members of the Force

/who

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who are not Palestinians.

8. Prospects of improvement in the security situation are not good. Conflict in Jerusalem has subsided and there is some hope that the situation there will not deteriorate unless some serious act of provocation is committed by one of the communities. The general situation is much complicated by the recent entry from neighbouring Arab States of large bands of trained guerillas. A force of some 300 from Syria has established itself in the hills of Galilee and a second large band of some 700 has entered Samaria via Transjordan. This latter band is now reported to have been reinforced by a contingent of some 900 which has also entered via Transjordan. Arab governments appear both powerless and unwilling to restrict the movements of these armed bands and the nature of the Palestine land frontiers, together with the other commitments of the security forces, makes it impossible for the Palestine Government to be certain of denying entry to such bands. The present policy of the invaders is to disperse amongst the villages on their arrival and consequently they do not present a formed body which can be driven out by our forces. Should a major engagement occur between the security forces and these armed bands within Palestine the consequences are bound to be grave.

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1948

PALESTINE

E 1635

5 FEB 1948

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(Minutes.)

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References.

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Pills 6/2

(Index.)

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24/6/48

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5 FEB 1948

For information

With
compliments

Colonial Office,
to Church House ~~Downing Street,~~
S.W.I.

3 . 2 1948

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CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
JERUSALEM.

22nd December, 1947.

GENERAL NOTICE CONFIDENTIAL NO. 2.

Subject: COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING GOVERNMENT'S
ACTIVITIES TO PUBLIC BODIES.

Certain heads of departments have already been approached by representatives of the Vaad Leumi, and it is believed that others will be in the near future, with requests for information, relating to the organisation and activities of their respective departments, which may be of use in connection with the possible establishment of a Jewish state.

2. It is clearly the duty of the Government of Palestine to avoid doing anything that may frustrate a successor Government; but at the same time it must be remembered that the intention is that the Administration should be transferred, not to successor Governments, but to a Commission of the United Nations. While therefore all information possible concerning Government activities will have to be given to this United Nations Commission, who will be under obligation to set up successor Governments, it is necessary to exercise care as to the form in which it is given to other parties, particularly those having an interest in the composition and powers of one or other of the successor Governments.

3. The enquiries referred to should be dealt with on the following lines. A Department should decline to give information regarding the division of expenditure or staff between the areas of the proposed Arab and Jewish States, but should be ready to furnish to any responsible enquirer a comprehensive picture of its activities in the whole of Palestine, showing the distribution of staff, the regional organisation of the Department and any other information (not of a Secret or Confidential nature) relating to the whole of Palestine that may be requested and may reasonably be given. It will no doubt be possible for the recipient of this information to make approximately correct deductions, but it is the form in which the information is given that is of importance. There may be requests from Arab bodies as well as Jewish for those particulars and it is desirable that they should be given the same composite information without any attempt on our part to indicate an allocation as between the proposed States, which would forestall and might prejudice the work of the Commission.

H. L. G. GURNEY
Chief Secretary.

DISTRIBUTION: HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS.

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1948

E

PALESTINE

E. 1655

5 FEB 1948

61

Registry Number E1655/8/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

U.K. Del

Dated

New York

Received in Registry

322
4 Feb
5 -

Withheld from tel
for clearance source from East.
It has been asked to give an interview to the
"New York Times" on the humanitarian and civil
questions relate to Palestine.
From list of names prepared by Mr A.
Bridgman, the names and address.

Last Paper.

1635

(Minutes.)

I think this will do.

References.

H. Bealey 5/2

(Print.)

The S. of S. has minuted
on a copy of the tel. That he
agrees. Pl. inform CRO
& send necessary reply.

(How disposed of.)

8, 12 copies B.R.O. 7/2
4, 2 copies W. Humboldt.
B.R.O.
Feb. 7.

tel. New York 550
7 Feb.

8, As above Feb 10.

tel. New York 595
Feb 10.

8, As above Feb 11.

JAB 3
3 -

CRO are replying.

H.B. 7/2

(Action completed.)

(Index)

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

- 2 P.P. of Cummins to B.R.O. & H. Bealey 6/2
- A. S. Watson, CO to H. Bealey Cummins to B.R.O. 4/2
- 7 Cummins to B.R.O. & F.K. Robert 6/7
- 14 Defence to H. Bealey - B.R.O. 7/2
- J.L. Pumphrey to " " " 10/2

Next Paper.

1635

H.B. 129
12

P.T.O

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2 FEB 1969

92 P.P. 02061 b.d.K. Red 595 10/2

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62
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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 522

D. 2.06 p.m. February 4th, 1948.

February 4th, 1948.

R. 7.30 p.m. February 4th, 1948.

Repeated to Washington Saving.

SECRET

Addressed Foreign Office (For Commonwealth Relations Office) telegram No. 522 February 4th, repeated Washington Saving.

[Begins]

For Cumming-Bruce from East.

Your letter of January 27th.

E 1053
5 FEB 1948
Secretary of State has been asked to give an interview to the "New York Times" on the Commonwealth and the first question relates to Palestine. Cadogan thinks it might be useful if he made the following answer. Would you please obtain necessary clearance and advice whether it should be given or not.

2. Question: Will Great Britain's strategical position be weaker in the Middle East when her forces have withdrawn from Palestine? Answer: Some people have believed and many people have said that Britain's acceptance of the Palestine mandate was due to her desire to have another strong military base in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is of course true that in 1941 while we stood alone against Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy with Greece as our only fighting ally the presence of our forces in Palestine helped us to hold Hitler's victorious march in check. Had they not been there Hitler would certainly have taken Syria, Iraq and perhaps Persia and might have been at the back door to the Caucasus before his troops attacked Russia from the west. Incidentally he would have overrun the national home. But the truth is that the "strategic" motive had nothing to do with our acceptance of a mandate in Palestine. We hoped that we could help to create a national home with co-operation from both Jews and Arabs. Hitler's war destroyed that hope as it destroyed so much else. Our mandate in Palestine became an intolerable burden and when others have taken over our responsibilities that can only be a great relief.

[Ends]

Foreign Office please pass to Commonwealth Relations Office.

[Copies sent to the Commonwealth Relations Office]

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5 FEB 1948
RECEIVED
COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

63 p.w.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE,
DOWNING ST., S.W. 1.

6th February, 1948

IMMEDIATE

Dear Bealey,

I enclose a copy of a message I have had from New York about a proposed statement by my Secretary of State to the New York Times on Palestine.

Will you please let me have your observations?

In accordance with the Prime Minister's direction I am clearing the proposed terms of the statement with the Foreign Secretary, the Minister of Defence and the Colonial Secretary personally.

I have asked Watson at the Colonial Office and Wood at the Ministry of Defence to arrange for any necessary clearance at the official level in their respective departments.

Yours sincerely,

H. Cunningham

H. Bealey, Esq., CBE.

Am... 1688 8 31

5 FEB 1948

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Eastern Dept.

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Please see the 4/5's minute:

CMCA

SJS-

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 322

D. 2.06 p.m. February 4th, 1948.

February 4th, 1948.

R. 7.30 p.m. February 4th, 1948.

Repeated to Washington Saving.

SECRET

Addressed Foreign Office (For Commonwealth Relations Office) telegram No. 322 February 4th, repeated Washington Saving.

[Begins]

For Cumming-Bruce from East.

Your letter of January 27th.

Secretary of State has been asked to give an interview to the "New York Times" on the Commonwealth and the first question relates to Palestine. Cadogan thinks it might be useful if he made the following answer. Would you please obtain necessary clearance and advice whether it should be given or not.

2. Question: Will Great Britain's strategical position be weaker in the Middle East when her forces have withdrawn from Palestine? Answer: Some people have believed and many people have said that Britain's acceptance of the Palestine mandate was due to her desire to have another strong military base in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is of course true that in 1941 while we stood alone against Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy with Greece as our only fighting ally the presence of our forces in Palestine helped us to hold Hitler's victorious march in check. Had they not been there Hitler would certainly have taken Syria, Iraq and perhaps Persia and might have been at the back door to the Caucasus before his troops attacked Russia from the west. Incidentally he would have overrun the national home. But the truth is that the "strategic" motive had nothing to do with our acceptance of a mandate in Palestine. We hoped that we could help to create a national home with co-operation from both Jews and Arabs. Hitler's war destroyed that hope as it destroyed so much else. Our mandate in Palestine became an intolerable burden and when others have taken over our responsibilities that can only be a great relief.

[Ends]

Foreign Office please pass to Commonwealth Relations Office.

[Copies sent to the Commonwealth Relations Office]

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65
6th February, 1948.

Thank you for your letter of the 6th February, about the statement on Palestine which it is suggested Mr. Noel-Baker should make to the "New York Times".

I have consulted my Secretary of State who suggests that it would be an improvement if the sentence beginning "Hitler's war....." were omitted and if the following were substituted for the last sentence "Our mandate relief":-

"For a variety of reasons the administration of the mandate in later years has become an intolerable burden for the United Kingdom. Our contribution to Palestine has been considerable and it will be a great relief when others assume responsibility for the country".

I am sending copies of this letter to Roberts at the Foreign Office and Wood at the Ministry of Defence, who will perhaps let you know direct whether the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of Defence agree with Mr. Creech Jones' amendment. I am also sending a copy of this to Helsby.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) N.D. WATSON.

Private Secretary.

The Honourable
F.L. Cunningham-Bruce

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System Dept .

66

we have informed the CRO by telephone
that the S/G has no objection to a reply in these
terms being given to the N.Y. Times's question.
COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE,
DOWNING ST., S.W.1. *CA/CA 6/2*

IMMEDIATE

6th February, 1948

Dear Roberts,

I enclose a copy of a telegram from New York suggesting terms in which my Secretary of State proposes he might give a reply to a question on Palestine for publication in the New York Times.

In accordance with the Prime Minister's direction that any public announcement concerning Palestine by a member of the Government should be cleared personally with the Foreign Secretary, the Minister of Defence and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, I should be glad if you would let me know whether the Foreign Secretary approves the proposed terms of the reply.

I am writing in similar terms to Wood at the Ministry of Defence and Watson at the Colonial Office, & have sent a copy of this letter to Helsby & to Riddsdale, & a copy of the telegram
Yours sincerely, to Beeley.

K. Cunningham-Bruce

F.K.Roberts, Esq., CMG.

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 322

D. 2.06 p.m. February 4th, 1948.

February 4th, 1948.

R. 7.50 p.m. February 4th, 1948.

Repeated to Washington Saving.

SECRET

Addressed Foreign Office (For Commonwealth Relations Office) telegram No. 322 February 4th, repeated Washington Saving.

[Begins]

For Cumming-Bruce from East.

Your letter of January 27th.

Secretary of State has been asked to give an interview to the "New York Times" on the Commonwealth and the first question relates to Palestine. Cadogan thinks it might be useful if he made the following answer. Would you please obtain necessary clearance and advice whether it should be given or not.

2. Question: Will Great Britain's strategical position be weaker in the Middle East when her forces have withdrawn from Palestine? Answer: Some people have believed and many people have said that Britain's acceptance of the Palestine mandate was due to her desire to have another strong military base in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is of course true that in 1941 while we stood alone against Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy with Greece as our only fighting ally the presence of our forces in Palestine helped us to hold Hitler's victorious march in check. Had they not been there Hitler would certainly have taken Syria, Iraq and perhaps Persia and might have been at the back door to the Caucasus before his troops attacked Russia from the west. Incidentally he would have overrun the national home. But the truth is that the "strategic" motive had nothing to do with our acceptance of a mandate in Palestine. We hoped that we could help to create a national home with co-operation from both Jews and Arabs. Hitler's war destroyed that hope as it destroyed so much else. Our mandate in Palestine became an intolerable burden and when others have taken over our responsibilities that can only be a great relief.

[Ends]

Foreign Office please pass to Commonwealth Relations Office.

[Copies sent to the Commonwealth Relations Office]

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10 Downing Street,
Whitehall

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17th February, 194

The Prime Minister has seen the correspondence between your office, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office about New York telegram No. 522, in which a suggested answer is given to a question to be put to Mr. Coolidge by the New York Times on the subject of Palestine.

The Prime Minister has commented:-

"I do not think that this question should be answered. The short answer would be either Yes or No. The proposed reply does not really deal with the question, but makes it an occasion to say other things. This might lead to awkward supplementaries. I see no reason for answering a questionnaire of this sort especially in the U.S.A."

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Good, ... Roberts and ... Smith.

(Sgd.) J.L. PUMPHREY

The Hon. ...
Commonwealth Relations Office.

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Date 7/2 '69
Duplicated 10 P

D.O.

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr. Syers
Sir Charles Dixon
Depy. U.S. of S.
Permt. U.S. of S.
Parly. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State

IMMEDIATE

For East from Cumming-Bruce.

Your telegram No. 322.

Secretary of State's interview with
New York Times.

Terms of ^{proposed} reply to New York Times question
on Palestine still under consideration by
Ministers.

DRAFT telegram

IMMEDIATE
U.K. Delegation
New York
Cypher

We hope to telegraph decision on Monday.

Meanwhile we would be grateful if no
statement is made.

560

Feb 7

7/2

Further action.
Distribution
As on telegram
under reference

Printing.

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7th February, 1948

Dear Mr. Bruce,

I have consulted my Minister about telegram No. 382 from New York about the suggested reply by your Secretary of State to a question on Palestine for publication in the New York Times.

Mr. Alexander is apprehensive of the difficulties in which Mr. Noel Baker may find himself if he gives an interview of the kind suggested and attempts in it to deal with our strategic position in the Middle East. My Minister fears, not so much that the prepared answer itself will give rise to difficulties but that embarrassing supplementary questions may be asked, for which such more detailed briefing would be required. Mr. Alexander would, therefore, prefer that the question should not be dealt with at all.

The Honourable G. S. Morrison-Bruce.

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If, however, it is thought impossible to avoid providing an answer, my Minister would prefer that Mr. Noel Baker's reply should be on the lines indicated in the attached draft.

I am sending copies of this letter to Roberts, Watson, and Helsby.

Yours sincerely,

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Some people have believed and many people have said that Britain's acceptance of the Palestine Mandate was due to her desire to have another strong military base in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is pertinent to recall that our troops only came to and remained in Palestine during and after the 1941/1918 war, as a direct result of which were created the sovereign states of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Transjordan. It is, of course, true that in 1941, while we stood alone against Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy, with Greece as our only fighting ally, the presence of our forces in Palestine helped us to hold Hitler's victorious march in check. Had they not been there, Hitler would certainly have taken Syria, Iraq, and perhaps Persia, and might have been at the back door of the Caucasus before his troops attacked Russia from the West. Incidentally, he would have overrun the national home.

To that extent, therefore, in the last war the presence of our forces in Palestine was important to the defence of the Middle East. Palestine, however, is not the focal state for the successful defence of the Middle East. This can only be brought about by the co-operation of all states whose vital interests lie in that area. The interests of the Commonwealth are closely bound up in the Middle East and that is why we seek the friendship of all peoples there. We hoped to create a

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national home with co-operation from both Jews and Arabs, and the strategic motive had nothing to do with our acceptance of the Mandate. Hitler's war destroyed that hope, as it destroyed so much else. Our Mandate in Palestine became an intolerable burden and in the face of the wishes of the people of that country, we have renounced it.

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Cypher/OTP

FILES

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 550

7th February, 1948. D. 10.0 p.m. 7th February, 1948.

IMMEDIATE

For East from Cumming-Bruce.

Your telegram No. 322.

Secretary of State's interview with New York Times.

Terms of proposed reply to New York Times question on Palestine still under consideration by Ministers.

We hope to telegraph decision on Monday. Meanwhile we would be grateful if no statement is made.

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(File **OUT FILE**)

75

CYPHER

Parly. U.S. of S.
Minister of State
Secretary of State

SECRET

DRAFT.

CYPHER TELEGRAM

YOUR TELEGRAM 4TH FEBRUARY NO. 322.

U K DELEGATION *Following* FOR EAST FROM CUMMING BRUCE. BEGINS.

NEW YORK NEW YORK "TIMES" QUESTION ON PALESTINE.

IMMEDIATE

AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY

MINISTERS CONCERNED PRIME MINISTER HAS

DECIDED THAT QUESTION SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT

BE ANSWERED. HE OBSERVES THAT PROPOSED

REPLY DOES NOT REALLY DEAL WITH QUESTION

AND MIGHT LEAD TO AWKWARD SUPPLEMENTARIES

and

Further
RECEIVED IN C.B.
No 595
Feb. 10th
FEB 10 1948
Printing.
7 copies

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AND THAT THERE IS IN ANY CASE NO OBLIGATION

TO ANSWER SUCH A QUESTION. ENDS.

[Return sent to Mr. Glect]

*H.B. 107
12*

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 595.

February 10th, 1948. D. 9.38.p.m. February 10th, 1948.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Your telegram 4th February No. 322.

Following for East from Cumming Bruce. Begins.

New York "Times" question on Palestine.

After careful consideration by Ministers concerned Prime Minister has decided that question should not (repeat not) be answered. He observes that proposed reply does not really deal with question and might lead to awkward supplementaries, and that there is in any case no obligation to answer such a question. Ends.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

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With the Compliments of the
Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth
Relations.

This is an unparaphrased version of a Secret cypher (typex) message and
the text must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it
to persons outside British and United States Government Services.

11 FEB 1948

P.W. 77

Outward Telegram from Commonwealth Relations Office

E

1655 8 21

P.S. TO S OF S.
CYPHER

TO : U.K. DELEGATION, NEW YORK

(Sent to F.O. 3.20.p.m. 10th February, 1948)

IMMEDIATE

No. 595 SECRET

Your telegram 4th February No. 322. For East from
Cumming Bruce. Begins: New York "Times" question on
Palestine. After careful consideration by Ministers
concerned Prime Minister has decided that question should
not repeat not be answered. He observes that proposed
reply does not really deal with question and might lead to
awkward supplementaries, and that there is in any case no
obligation to answer such a question. Ends.

Copy to :

Prime Minister's Private Secretary (6)
Foreign Office Private Secretary
Mr. Beeley
Colonial Office Private Secretary
M/Defence Private Secretary
Group Captain Stapleton

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FEB 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number

101147/8/31

FROM

M. Medin

No.

10

Dated

10/11/48

Received in Registry

10/11/48

transmission of Mandate period for
copy of letter to Sir John 75572/10/48
24th. your list of suggested amendments from
Sir John Gasson. My suggestion is that the list for
recommended to be amended to be amended
to be amended to be amended.
to be amended to be amended of this goal is not
to be amended to be amended etc. without amendment
with 60.

Last Paper.

1655

(Minutes.)

References.

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(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

GEM 10/2

(Index.)

10/11/48

Next Paper.

1697

29470 F.O.P.

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enter

Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

2nd February, 1948.

My Reference 75872/159/48

Your Reference

My dear Luke,

The High Commissioner for Palestine has drawn our attention to an Associated Press despatch from Arthur Gavshon datelined London 15th January. The despatch reads as follows: Following are opening paragraphs:- "London Thursday, Palestine Government has recommended Britain surrender Mandate 6 weeks earlier than planned date 15th May, authoritative Whitonall sources reported today. British Administrators in Jerusalem fear that the whole machine of the Civil Government may collapse before 15th May because of continuing strife, sources disclosed.

They added that half of Palestine Government's 32 departments have already been demobilised for weeks at a time owing to insecurity; and that less than one month's supply remained of certain types of fuel oils essential for transport, because of closure of refineries after massacre of Jewish workers there".

Although we are inclined to think that the main theme of the despatch, namely that the Palestine Government are anxious that the date of termination of the Mandate should be advanced, is no more than a development of previous articles on similar lines which have appeared in the Times and elsewhere, the last sentence certainly looks as if it was drawn from the High Commissioner's telegram No. 53, extracts of which were circulated to normal recipients of the "Palestine distribution".

I realise that owing to an oversight this telegram was circulated without proper security classification. My Secretary of State has however instructed me to write to draw the attention of all recipients of this and other similar telegrams in the Palestine series to the great importance of not revealing to the Press any opinions of the Palestine Government or any facts about the situation in Palestine - however innocuous they may appear on the surface - without consultation with the Colonial Office.

Yours sincerely,
(sd) S. E. V. Luke

S. E. V. LUKE, ESQ., C.M.G.

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E 1097

1948

PALESTINE

FEB 1948

Registry Number

E 1097/5/31

FROM

P 2

No.

100 Row

Dated

2 Feb

Received in Registry

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Minutes of Council House Session
100 Row and per what message of message
not to be sent a schedule to be received from Pictas
with shipping to be available in week week of 1948
in house. Not in public interest to disclose
but in making available the quantity of shipping
is required.

Last Paper.

1695

(Minutes.)

JB Feb. 6

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(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

G E M 7/2

(Index.)

24/1/48

Next Paper.

1722

29470 F.O.P.

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E 81

E 1197

Parliamentary Question

* 23. Mr. Low.—To ask the Minister of Transport, for what tonnage of service department stores scheduled to be evacuated from Palestine will shipping be available in each month of 1948. [Monday 2nd February.]

2 FEB 1948
RECD.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DRAFT REPLY FOR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT.

It would not be in the public interest to disclose details of the evacuation plans while the operation is in progress, but I can assure the hon. Member that my Ministry is arranging to make available the quantity of shipping required by the Service Departments for their planned evacuation of stores from Palestine.

Eastern Dept.

No obj. Agree J.S. Benin Jan 30
Ministry of Defence are putting their reply up to the P.M. I have promised to let the Ministry have our comments first thing tomorrow.

145/2

* 47. Major Legge-Bourke.—To ask the Secretary of State for War, what tonnage and types of military stores have disappeared in Palestine during the past three months. [Tuesday 3rd

WAR OFFICE DRAFT REPLY.

The information for which the hon. and gallant Member asks is not available in the War Office and could not be obtained from the military authorities overseas in the form asked for without a disproportionate amount of work.

Eastern Dept.

I agree J.S. Benin Jan 30
I have told the W.O. that this reply seems harmless enough. Surely the P.M. hadn't see this?

Eric Vincent

M. Mayhew's Office.

30/1.

(253)

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5 FEB 1948
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**Service Stores, Palestine
(Evacuation)**

23. **Mr. A. R. W. Low** asked the Minister of Transport for what tonnage of Service Department stores scheduled to be evacuated from Palestine will shipping be available in each month of 1948.

Mr. Barnes: It would not be in the public interest to disclose details of the evacuation plans while the operation is in progress, but I am arranging to make available the quantity of shipping required by the Service Departments for their planned evacuation of stores from Palestine.

Mr. Low: Is the right hon. Gentleman satisfied that there is sufficient shipping for the plans, and has he recently had an application from the Service Departments to increase the amount of shipping to be made available?

1948

Military Stores, Palestine

102. **Major Legge-Bourke** asked the Secretary of State for War what tonnage and types of military stores have disappeared in Palestine during the past three months.

Mr. Shinwell: The information for which the hon. and gallant Member asks is not available in the War Office and could not be obtained from the military authorities overseas in the form asked for without a disproportionate amount of work.

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**PARLIAMENTARY
QUESTION.** E
m.w.
82

**Service Stores, Palestine
(Evacuation)**

23. **Mr. A. R. W. Low** asked the Minister of Transport for what tonnage of Service Department stores scheduled to be evacuated from Palestine will shipping be available in each month of 1948.

Mr. Barnes: It would not be in the public interest to disclose details of the evacuation plans while the operation is in progress, but I am arranging to make available the quantity of shipping required by the Service Departments for their planned evacuation of stores from Palestine.

Mr. Low: Is the right hon. Gentleman satisfied that there is sufficient shipping for the plans, and has he recently had an application from the Service Departments to increase the amount of shipping to be made available?

Mr. Barnes: The answer to the first part of the Question is, "Yes"; the answer to the second part has already been given in my reply.

2 FEB 1948

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<p>32 1948</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E1722/G 83</p>
<p>E 1722 18/2 31/6 U.K. Delegation New York 34Y dated 5 Feb.</p>	<p>Draft Directive for G.O.C. <u>Palestine</u></p>	
<p>Last Paper. E1593</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p>	
<p>References. E1083/8/9.</p>	<p>Copy Col. Chatteris M.O. W.O. Col. Sherman C.O. M.O. Mr Higham C.O. Mr Russell-Edmonds Try Grp. Captain Roth, A.M. <u>Soon pre</u> a recontact JB. Feb. 6</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>	<p>See E1725 a minute JB Feb 9</p>	
<p>(How disposed of.) 8) Col Chatteris W.O. Col Sherman C.O. Mr Higham C.O. Mr Russell-Edmonds Try e/c Roth A.M. 7 Feb. 10) New York Y.S.B. 18 Feb. R.P.D. Jerusalem W/O W.P.O.</p>		
<p>(Action completed.) 20/2</p>	<p>(Index.) 4/4</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p>		

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20. Feb.

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F1422 84

6 FEB 1948

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Cypher/OTP.

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION.

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 547

D. 1.55 p.m. 5th February, 1948.
R. 7.05 p.m. 5th February, 1948.

5th February, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem,
Washington - Saving.

IMMEDIATE.

GIANT.

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 547 of 5th February, repeated to Jerusalem and Saving to Washington.

Your despatch E.1083/8/G.

Draft directive for G.O.C., Palestine.

My principal comment on draft is that it does not make absolutely clear whether:

- (A) The Commission is to be allowed to exercise any civil authority in areas controlled by G.O.C., subject to latter's over-riding authority as and when he chooses to exercise it, or
- (B) Authority of Commission is automatically excluded from all such areas (which may from time to time be extended or decreased at discretion of G.O.C.).

A third possible interpretation is that

- (C) G.O.C. may from time to time invite Commission to exercise civil authority within areas in question, subject of course to his over-riding jurisdiction.

2. Interpretation (A) seems to be supported by reference in paragraph 4 to "other law and authority in these areas" and by first sentence of paragraph 11. In this connexion I should be grateful to know exact meaning of word "established"; e.g. does it refer to physical presence of Commission in Palestine or to some form of de facto assertion of latter's authority?

3. In any case it seems desirable that real intention of directive on this matter should be indicated beyond possibility of doubt, as this will obviously affect Commission's attitude towards the directive as a whole and towards such questions as collection of revenue and

/expenditure

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- 2 -

expenditure on civil affairs in areas under control of G.O.C.

4. In this connexion I have received a letter from Secretary of Commission asking, in view of Assembly resolution and particularly paragraphs 2 and 12 of Section B, Part I, that directive be discussed with the Commission before it is finalised and issued. I should be grateful for instructions as to reply.

Foreign Office please pass immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 67.

[Copy sent to Telegraph Branch Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

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Registry
No. E 1722/8/G

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CYPHER 85

19 February 1948.

Despatched 1 42 P.M.

Draft. UK Del
New York.

IMPORTANT

SECRET

GIANT

Telegram.

No.

(Date)

Repeat to:—

Jerusalem ✓

Washington / 1948 ✓

*Fair draft
seen by W.N. Dept.
& Mr Fitzmaurice*

*Copy sent to W.O.
for final concurrence*

*M. S. Bevin
Feb. 17*

*En. Chair. W.O. Concurrence
Code:
Cypher.*

Distribution:—

World Organi-
sation.

Mr Bevin to see

W.N. Dept.

Copies to:—

Addressed to U.K. Delegation, New York,
tel. No. 756 of February 18th. Re-
peated for information to Jerusalem and
Washington.

Your telegram No. 347 [of February 5th:
draft directive for G.O.C. Palestine].
Folly from Eastern Dept.
Your interpretation (A) is the correct one
and we consider that this emerges quite clearly
from paragraph 4 of the directive.

2. The word "established" in paragraph 11
means "physically present in Palestine and
"attempting to carry out its functions". It
is not essential for the purpose of this
assumption that the Commission's authority
should be fully effective.

Question of
3. As regards advance consultation with
~~it~~ *has not yet been discussed by Ministers. Our*
the United Nations Commission, ~~it is not~~
present idea is
~~intended~~ that the terms of the directive, when
not

it is ~~finally~~ *not* approved here, should be a
matter for negotiation with the Commission.
We
Nevertheless, I shall probably wish you to
communicate the directive to the Commission as
soon as it is ready and before any publicity
is given to it and ~~we~~ *we* should hope that it would
be possible to secure the Commission's con-
currence. If the Commission should question
any part of the directive as likely to give rise
to/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(32854) W.11086/147 100,000 647 A.S.E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

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to difficulties for them, you could ^{then} assure them that, while unable to alter its terms, we would carefully note any observations they may have to make and endeavour to meet their difficulties in practice as far as possible. ~~Meanwhile it is~~

4. Final amendments are still under consideration here.

SAB
18:2

Pending further discussion here it does not seem possible for you to reply to the Commissioner's letter.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Cypher/OTP
E 1722/8/G
Secret

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No.756 D. 1.40 a.m. 19th February, 1948
18th February, 1948

Repeated to Jerusalem and Washington No.1987.

IMPORTANT
SECRET
GIANT

Addressed to United Kingdom Delegation New York telegram No.756 of February 18th, repeated for information to Jerusalem and Washington.

Your telegram No.347 [of February 5th: draft directive for G.O.C. Palestine].

Following from Eastern Department.

Your interpretation (A) is the correct one and we consider that this emerges quite clearly from paragraph 4 of the directive.

2. The word "established" in paragraph 11 means "physically present in Palestine and attempting to carry out its functions". It is not essential for the purpose of this assumption that the Commission's authority should be fully effective.

3. Question of advance consultation with the United Nations Commission, has not yet been discussed by Ministers. Our present idea is that the terms of the directive, when it is finally approved here, should not be a matter for negotiation with the Commission. We shall probably wish you to communicate the directive to the Commission as soon as it is ready and before any publicity is given to it and we should hope that it would be possible to secure the Commission's concurrence. If the Commission should question any part of the directive as likely to give rise to difficulties for them, you could then assure them that, while unable to alter its terms, we would carefully note any observations they may have to make and endeavour to meet their difficulties in practice as far as possible. Pending further discussion here it does not seem possible for you to reply to the Commission's letter.

4. Final amendments are still under consideration here.

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<p>1948</p> <p>33</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E1723 / G</p> <p>87</p>
<p>E1723/8/31/6</p> <p>Col Chatteris was office to Mr Keith BM/2232 (1404) dated 4 Feb.</p>	<p>Instructions for G.O.C Palestine.</p> <p>cos/3151.</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E1722</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>see E1725 a minute JB Feb 9</p>	
<p>References</p>	<p>Reply JB Feb. 14</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p> <p>off to Col Chatteris w.D. from Mr Keith 14 Feb.</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>DF 16/1</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>WJH.</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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Whitehall 9400
Extension 595.



BM/2232(MO4)

6 FEB 1948
From:- Lt-Col. The Hon. MNC Charteris, OBE

THE WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1. *entered*

4 February, 1948. *88*

TOP SECRET

E1923

Dear John.

You will have seen the 3 signals from the Chiefs of Staff (COS(NE)198, 199 and 200) to Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, in which the directive and administrative instruction to the General Officer Commanding Palestine was amended, so that the powers to be given to the GOC should stem direct from HMG and not be delegated through Commanders-in-Chief Middle East.

We have now received a signal from Middle East in which it is pointed out that there may be occasion when it would be necessary for the Commanders-in-Chief to have a directive indemnifying them for the action which they order to be taken in Palestine, and we are asked whether we are quite certain that the Commanders-in-Chief are legally covered to exercise their full rights of command after the surrender of the Mandate, without some such directive of indemnity.

I would be grateful if you could consult your legal advisers on this question.

J.G.S. Beith Esq.,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

MNC Charteris

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419918

ONE TIME PAD

Recd. 3 Feb. '48.

D.T.O. 031310B Feb.

From: C. in C. MELF.

To: War Office.

EMERGENCY

TOP SECRET COS/3151.

Personal for DMO from Chief of Staff.

One. Reference COS(ME) 198, 199 and 200 and particularly COS(ME) 198 paragraph two. I appreciate that there may be political and legal reasons for the proposed manner of issue of the directive and administration instr, but I am not yet happy that the chain of cmd and responsibility as at present defined is correct from the service point of view.

Two. The responsibility for the full evacuation plan of Palestine must rest with the Comds in Chief Middle East. In the case of MELF this must be so because GHQ controls transportation ex Palestine, redeployment and the date of readiness of accommodation in the new deployment areas. Moreover the Cmd in Chief has the right to overrule the actions of the GOC as a military cmd in Palestine. Situations elsewhere in MELF might require him to do so.

Three. In its strictest sense therefore occasion might arise when it would be necessary for the Cmd in Chief to have a directive indemnifying him for the action which he ordered to be taken in Palestine.

Four. Clearly the subject is primarily legal one. Unfortunately our JAG and his senior staff are at present absent from this HQ.

Five. Bearing in mind what I have said above please give consideration to the following two points:-

- A. Would it not be better to issue the directive to the Comds in Chief Middle East for delegation to GOC Palestine through normal chain of cmd.
- B. If you (? decide) against are we quite certain that the Comds in Chief are legally covered to exercise their full rights of cmd after the surrender of the mandate without some directive of indemnity.

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 VCIGS MO 1,4.
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FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

E 1722/8/G.

14th February, 1948.

Thank you for your letter of February 4th about the Directive for the G.O.C.

I submitted the point raised in the Chief of Staff's personal telegram, COS/3151, to our Legal Adviser who expressed the view that the Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, would receive their indemnity under Clause 2(2) of the Palestine Bill. I so informed the Working Party on February 12th, when Leask was present.

(J.G.S. Beith)

Lt.Col. The Hon. M.M.C. Charteris,
O. B. E.,
The War Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

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<p>34</p> <p>10-3</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E1724/G</p> <p>91</p>
<p>E 1724/8/31/G</p> <p>Cabinet office</p> <p>CP(48)40</p> <p>Dated 4 Feb.</p>	<p>Palestine : withdrawal of British Administration</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E1723</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>JB Feb. 7</p>	
<p>References</p>		
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>Ans 9/2</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>W.P.</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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6 FEB 1948

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C.P.(48) 40

4th February, 1948.

CABINET

E1724

PALESTINE: WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Colonies

The United Nations Commission have been informed, and it has been publicly announced, that it is our intention to terminate British civil administration in Palestine on 15th May, 1948. The possibility of advancing this date was recently re-examined by me in conjunction with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence, and we reached the conclusion that the repercussions on the military plan of selecting an earlier date could not be accepted.

2. British civil administration is still being maintained over the whole of Palestine, and it is not the intention to close down any Department before the termination of the Mandate. In the present disturbed conditions, however, the range and effectiveness of certain departmental functions are necessarily restricted and difficulty is being encountered through the reluctance of Jewish and Arab staff to report for duty through fear of molestation by members of the other community. This latter tendency has been most noticeable in Jerusalem, although in the last two weeks improvement in the attendances of local staff has been continuous.

3. Although full responsibility is retained by the Mandatory Government, steps are being taken to devolve certain functions of government on the local inhabitants. Palestinians are being appointed to perform the duties of British administrative officers as the latter proceed on leave. Legislation is being prepared to give local authorities wider powers, e.g., of taxation, and certain essential public utilities are being handed over to them. In the field of public security local arrangements are also being made. British police have been withdrawn from the Tel-Aviv area and, except for divisional headquarters, from Nablus, Hebron, Jericho, and certain isolated police posts in northern Palestine. In the former area responsibility for internal security has been handed over to a Jewish Guard Force maintained by the Jewish Agency and in the latter districts responsibility is carried by the Arabs of the Palestine Police Force under British command. In these Arab areas the local police have been reinforced by some British troops for general security. An Arab Municipal police force has been set up in Jaffa and arrangements are in hand for establishing similar forces in 18 other Arab towns. By the end of February it is hoped to have formed in Jerusalem a Municipal police force of 600, half Jew and Half Arab. A countrywide scheme for the enrolment of armed special constables to police Arab villages has been started. All these forces remain under the direction of the Inspector-General of Police and will only pass fully to local control on the termination of the Mandate.

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4. The evacuation of British officials and their families has begun. Since 1st February, 51 British officials, and 12 wives and 5 children of British officials have left Palestine. 370 berths have been reserved for British officers of the Administration and their families for February and during March and April 200 will sail every fortnight from Haifa. The balance of 400 will leave Palestine in smaller contingents by vessels carrying the orange crop and by air. It is intended that all British wives and children of officials shall be out of the country one month before the termination of the Mandate.

5. The commercial activity of the country has been severely restricted. Labour difficulties have been encountered where Arabs and Jews normally work together and there is consequently some congestion in Haifa and Jaffa ports. The citrus export programme is somewhat behind schedule but prospects of completion are fair if the present rate is maintained. The export of citrus is not impeding the planned military withdrawal. Railways continue to operate but road transport is considerably restricted. Difficulty is being experienced through the shortage of oil fuel due to the temporary stoppage at the Haifa refineries. Work there was resumed on a small scale on 22nd January and if there are no further set-backs full production should be attained within three weeks.

6. There is a noticeable decline in the collection of revenue. As the assessment of the terminal liabilities of the Palestine Government proceeds, it is becoming evident that its available balances will not suffice to meet all commitments. A deficit of at least \$4,000,000 is expected. This can be attributed mainly to heavy expense involved in meeting the costs of the Cyprus camps and in payment of terminal benefits to Government servants.

7. Units of the Transjordan Arab Legion in Palestine, who are to be returned to Transjordan before the termination of the civil government, are employed in static guard and escort duty and not in dealing with communal disorders. Disarmament and disbandment of the Transjordan Frontier Force has now begun at its base at Zerka in Transjordan. Transjordanians and Syrians will be discharged there and will not enter Palestine. Egyptians and Palestinians will be discharged at Samakh in Palestine. It is intended to repatriate to their countries of origin all those members of the Force who are not Palestinians.

8. Prospects of improvement in the security situation are not good. Conflict in Jerusalem has subsided and there is some hope that the situation there will not deteriorate unless some serious act of provocation is committed by one of the communities. The general situation is much complicated by the recent entry from neighbouring Arab States of large bands of trained guerillas. A force of some 300 from Syria has established itself in the hills of Galilee and a second large band of some 700 has entered Samaria via Transjordan. This latter band is now reported to have been reinforced by a contingent of some 900 which has also entered via Transjordan. Arab governments appear both powerless and unwilling to restrict the movements of these armed bands and the nature of the

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Palestine land frontiers, together with the other commitments of the security forces, makes it impossible for the Palestine Government to be certain of denying entry to such bands. The present policy of the invaders is to disperse amongst the villages on their arrival and consequently they do not present a formed body which can be driven out by our forces. Should a major engagement occur between the security forces and these armed bands within Palestine the consequences are bound to be grave.

A.C.J.

Colonial Office, S.W.1.
4th February, 1948.

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<p>340 1948</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E1725/G 95</p>
<p>E1725 18/9 31/G Mr Dale C.O. with Mr Beckett dated 4 Feb.</p>	<p>Directive for G.O.C. Palestine after British withdrawal</p>	
<p>Last Paper E1724</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p>	
<p>References</p>	<p>A final draft of the Directive for the G.O.C. was prepared as the result of a number of meetings of the Official Committee's Working Party, (at which Mr. Beckett and later Mr. Evans were present) and sent to New York, Jerusalem and Headquarters Middle East for comments - E1083/8/G Flag P. The comments of Sir A. Cadogan and the Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F. have now been received, but I have not yet seen the High Commissioner's comments.</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>	<p>Sir A. Cadogan (E1722/8/G Flag C) suggests that the draft should make it clear whether the United Nations Commission is to be allowed to exercise any civil authority in the areas controlled by the G.O.C., subject to the latter's over-riding authority, as and when he chooses to exercise it, or whether the Commission's authority is automatically excluded from all such areas. I have consulted Colonel Charteris of the War Office about this, and we both think that alternative (A), as stated by Sir A. Cadogan, is what is intended. If the Legal Adviser agrees, perhaps he may have views on how this point should be made even clearer.</p>	
<p>(How disposed of)</p>	<p>The Commander-in-Chief, Middle East (E1723/8/G Flag D) has suggested that the Commanders-in-Chief should, in the Directive, be indemnified for the action which they may order to be taken in Palestine, and the War Office ask whether we consider that such a provision could be made. I presume this would have to be done in a separate Directive to the Commanders-in-Chief, to whom of course the G.O.C. is answerable.</p> <p>There is also the point about the relation between the Directive and the Palestine Bill. I attach the relevant papers.</p>	
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>EF 24/2</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>1/27</p>	<p>11022/46/G 18/2 Mr Beckett J.G.S. Beith 2th February, 1948.</p>
<p>Next Paper</p>	<p>I have/</p>	

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K Dept

16 FEB 1948

*after 96
500*

*Please
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house
into op
18/10*

The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

E

4th February, 1948.

EIP2

My Reference

Your Reference

Dear Beckett,

Palestine.

I have just now seen for the first time the terms of the draft Directive which is to be issued to the G.O.C. covering withdrawal of the forces after the 15th May.

I have been looking at this, particularly paragraphs 2-8 in relation to the terms of Clause 2 (2) of the Palestine Bill, draft of which was laid before the Legislation Committee yesterday. You will remember that you and Roberts-Wray had correspondence about the powers which could be claimed under International Law by the military in the circumstances of the withdrawal, and I sent to you a copy of our instructions to Parliamentary Counsel of 9th January in which we said that we were uncertain about the position, and thought we ought to have cover in the Bill.

The Directive is drafted in terms which assume that the military will have the necessary powers in International Law, and I can see that this may be good policy in a document which may become public. But I think we ought to make up our own minds what the position really is. The Attorney-General at the Legislation Committee meeting yesterday said, according to the minutes, that it would be "impossible to say what the position of the United Kingdom forces would be under International Law."

W.E. Beckett, Esq., C.M.G., K.C.

/Looking

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97
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

9th February, 1948.

E 1725/8/G

Dear Dale,

I am answering your letter of the 4th February about Palestine.

I see no objection, and indeed some possible advantage, to inserting in Clause 2(2)(b) of the Palestine Bill the addition which you suggest. Although I should have thought that the idea of protection of the forces was really covered by what we have already in the Bill, I agree that it is as well to express indemnity clauses in a manner which is indisputably wide enough. The Attorney-General's remark at the Legislation Committee was made, I think, without a great deal of thought. We have had military forces in foreign countries with which we are not at war before, such as, for instance, in Iceland and Persia during the late war, to say nothing of Egypt from about 1890 till 1936, and in none of these cases was there any treaty with the country in question defining their position, and yet in all these cases there was assumed to be in the forces sufficient overriding power to do what was necessary to carry out their military function, and I think you can assume that that overriding power exists when the forces are lawfully there with the consent of the government of the territory. Obviously in the case of Palestine we can assume this to be the case, since the date of the withdrawal of our forces is part of the whole scheme. However, nobody is going to say that the position is clear beyond cavil.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) W. L. DALE

W.L. Dale, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

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64

E

E 1755

98

1948

PALESTINE

FEB 1948

Registry Number E 1755/8/31

FROM Mr Armanaji

No. Syrian Legation

Dated 16
Received in Registry 16 Mr Roberts
29 Feb
7 Feb

Part 6 Attitude in Palestine
transmit list of reliable report, alleging
active interference by British troops, on
the side of the Jews, in suppression of
Arab activities - Pal. file.

Last Paper.

1725

(Minutes.)

H.B. 9/12

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt Mr Armanaji
Syrian Legation
30 Jan
from Mr Roberts
apt. Mr Armanaji
Syrian Legation
from Mr Roberts
enc
Feb 9

(Action completed.)

Feb 11/2

(Index)

Feb 11/2

Next Paper.

1756

29470 F.O.P.

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SYRIAN LEGATION
LONDON.

No. 76.

99
E 1155
7 FEB 1948
29th January 1948

Dear Mr. Roberts,

On looking over a report that has come to me from a reliable source, I feel that it might be of a disturbing nature, especially in view of the recent sale of 21 aeroplanes to the Jewish Agency by a British source in Palestine.

The report says that last week has witnessed a new serious development in the security conditions of Palestine. This is the active interference of the British Army Forces, on the side of the Jews, in the suppression of Arab activities. Many instances can be quoted of this kind of interference. For example, in the small Arab village of Salemeb, which is surrounded on all sides by Jewish towns and settlements, and which is subjected to day-and-night attack by armed Jews, the British troops removed barricades and trenches used for the defence of the village, and blew up the roads communicating it with neighbouring Arab villages. Again, in the Manshieh quarter of Jaffa a day-and-night curfew was imposed for 48 hours and two Arab houses were blown up because a British soldier was killed in the Jaffa Tel-Aviv area, when there was nothing to indicate that the Arab responsibility was established in this regrettable incident.

Some days ago, the report continues, large British forces went to the rescue of a Jewish party which had attacked the Arab village of Sakreir in the South of Palestine, and received severe handling by the Arab defenders of that village. Also, when Jewish convoys or Jewish settlements are attacked

/though

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100

they are invariably heavily armed, British forces hasten to help and support them, while no such assistance is given to the Arab villages and towns when they are attacked. Armed Arabs are being caught and brought to trial while armed Jews are scarcely ever interfered with, or when they are caught, are instantly released, and they have ~~kept~~ all their arms given back to them.

In Haifa, the report states, the Army practises indiscriminate shooting at Arab quarters. In one day 15 Arabs were killed by this kind of shooting. The Arabs silently endured these losses and casualties inflicted upon them and have rigidly maintained this policy so far, because they declared from the beginning that they do not want to fight the British, who intended to evacuate Palestine. Nevertheless, the Arabs cannot understand why the British are behaving thus, when even at this moment they are still being attacked by the Jews.

I should like to draw the attention of the Foreign Office to this state of affairs, which is the subject of comment in all the Arab press at the moment; but I sincerely hope, though, that the situation will be improved before long.

Finally, the Jewish Agency representative at Lake Success have requested, in confidence, for the transmission of the British Government's plans for the evacuation of their military forces from Palestine in order to adjust their own plans with those of the British. The Arab countries would appreciate very much if a similar communication will be forthcoming to them for the same reasons.

Yours sincerely,

K. Amanaji

T. C. Roberts, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

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FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

30th January, 1948.

I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 76 of the 20th January about a report that had reached you to the effect that the British military authorities in Palestine were favouring the Jews against the Arabs,

Your letter reached me whilst I was taking a few days leave but I have forwarded it to the competent Department in the Foreign Office. I am sure that the matter will be thoroughly investigated and I hope to let you have a reply on my return to the Foreign Office next week.

(Sd) E. K. ROBERTS.

His Excellency
Mr. Najeeb Al-Ormanazi,
Syrian Legation,
19 Kensington Palace Gardens, W.8.

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Registry
No. E 1755/4/31

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H.B.

Draft.

Syrian Minister,

From: *FK*
Mr. Roberts. *CMR*

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

H. Bealey 7/2

[New para.]

7 p m 7/12
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

9 2nd February, 1948. 102

*X mil
+ enc*
In my letter of the 30th January, I promised you a further reply to your letter No. 76 on the subject of Palestine.

2. The task of the British troops in Palestine is to preserve law and order to the best of their ability without in any way discriminating between one community and the other. This means that they must exercise their discretion in determining which ^{side} state is the aggressor in any particular incident. It is quite natural that misunderstandings should result from this attitude, and we are, in fact, constantly recd'ing complaints from the Jews which are very similar in character to those to which you have invited our attention. I am convinced that the military are doing their best to suppress disorder impartially and that they are not actuated by any political prejudice whatsoever.

With reference to your last paragraph, we have already made communications to the Arab Governments on the subject of our plans for withdrawal from Palestine. I enclose an extract from the telegram in which H.M. Minister in Damascus was instructed on 4th December to explain to your Government the general outline of our plans.

[Handwritten signature]
5/2

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Extract from Telegram.

You should inform the Government to which you are accredited that His Majesty's Government have now been able to take their planning on withdrawal from Palestine a stage further and that they feel it would be consistent with their friendly relations with Arab States and with their desire for smooth and orderly withdrawal from Palestine for them to take the earliest opportunity of telling the Governments of Arab States in confidence the outline of their plans insofar as these have at present been approved

2. You should emphasise that the plans are being drawn up on the basis of withdrawal taking place as speedily as possible. The time limit is that evacuation should be complete by August 1st. This will involve leaving behind a considerable quantity of stores. It is clear, therefore, that any more rapid withdrawal would be out of the question. We hope incidentally to be able to arrange with successor authorities for the custody ~~of~~ subsequent evacuation of such stores as we are not able to take with us.

3. In order that withdrawal may be carried out within this framework, it is necessary on purely military and administrative grounds that the Palestine Government should retain administrative responsibility throughout Palestine, for several months. His Majesty's Government have made it clear that during this period they will not allow their forces or administration to be used in enforcing a settlement which is not acceptable to both Jews and Arabs. They would naturally have much preferred to terminate their responsibility at an earlier date, but for purely practical reasons are unable to do so. The exact date prior to the completion of evacuation on which the mandate will be relinquished and the British Administration brought to an end will be communicated to the Arab Governments as soon as possible.

4. The general trend of British withdrawal will be from south to north. After the termination of the Civil Administration British troops will be concentrated in the limited area pending final evacuation through Haifa. Within that area the British Military Commander will continue to take such measures as are necessary for the protection and speedy ~~of~~ evacuation of British troops and stores.

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

9th February, 1948.

No. E 1755/8/31.

My Dear Minister

In my letter of the 30th January, I promised you a further reply to your letter No. 76 on the subject of Palestine.

2. The task of the British troops in Palestine is to preserve law and order to the best of their ability without in any way discriminating between one community and the other. This means that they must exercise their discretion in determining which side is the aggressor in any particular incident. It is quite natural that misunderstandings should result from this attitude, and we are, in fact, constantly receiving complaints from the Jews which are very similar in character to those to which you have invited our attention. I am convinced that the military are doing their best to suppress disorder impartially and that they are not actuated by any political prejudice whatsoever.

3. With reference to your last paragraph, we have already made communications to the Arab Governments on the subject of our plans for withdrawal from Palestine. I enclose an extract from the telegram in which His Majesty's Minister in Damascus was instructed on the 4th December to explain to your Government the general outline of our plans.

Yours very sincerely

A. F. K. Roberts

His Excellency
Dr. Najeeb Al-Armanazi,
Syrian Legation,
19, Kensington Palace Gardens,
W.8.

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E

E 1750 105

1948

PALESTINE

7 FEB 1948

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 1750/8/71
General Spears
Roberts
24 Feb
4 Feb

British Attitude in Palestine.

Transmit copy of note regarding of
view by the British Army in Palestine
in favour of the Jews
regarding the report he contradicted
of fact in regard to this.

Last Paper.

1755

(Minutes.)

HB. 9/2

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt General Spears
from Mr Roberts
Jan 30
apt General Spears
from Mr Roberts
Feb 4

(Action completed.)

G. L. H. /

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

1763

26513 F.O.P.

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Minutes.

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I attach some correspondence with General Spears and also correspondence with the Syrian Minister dealing with the same complaint of bias by the British Army in Palestine in favour of the Jews. It seems an unlikely story but it should, I suppose, be investigated and we should send replies as soon as possible to the Minister and General Spears.

J. R.

30th January, 1948.

~~Eastern Dept.~~

Drafts submitted.

H. Beely
21/2

Drafts initialled by Mr. Roberts

H.B. 21/2

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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108

27th January, 1948.

The right Hon. A. Creech-Jones, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Church House,
Gt. Smith Street, S.W.1.

The enclosed paper has been received from quite a reliable observer in Palestine who is a friend of this country. I understand it will be published shortly. I cannot of course vouch for the statements it contains, but it is of a nature to disturb many friends of the Arabs in this country.

In the same order of ideas, I know it is the case that responsible Arab opinion has been greatly shocked by the sale of 21 aircraft from British Military stores, to the Jewish Agency.

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The last week has witnessed a new serious development in the security conditions of Palestine. This is the active interference of the British Army forces on the side of the Jews in the suppression of Arab activities, even when they are of a completely defensive character.

Many instances can be quoted of this kind of interference. In the small Arab village of Salameh, which is surrounded on all sides by Jewish towns and settlements, and which is subjected to day and night attacks by armed Jews, the British troops removed barricades and trenches used for the defence of the village, and blew up the roads connecting it with neighbouring Arab villages. In the Manshieh quarter of Jaffa, a day and night curfew was imposed for forty-eight hours and two Arab houses were blown up because a British soldier was killed in the Jaffa Tel-Aviv area, when there was nothing to indicate that he had not been killed, either by a stray bullet or by the Jews. Some days ago large British forces went to the rescue of a Jewish party which had attacked the Arab village of Sa'rair, in the south of Palestine, and received severe handling by the Arab defenders of that village. Also when Jewish convoys or Jewish settlements are attacked, though they are invariably heavily armed, British forces hasten to help and support them, while no response ever comes to the calls of Arab villages or towns when they are attacked. Armed Arabs are being caught and brought to trial, while armed Jews are scarcely ever interfered with or, when they are caught, are instantly released and have all their arms given back to them. Only a few days ago the British forces caught 50 armed Jews who were going to attack an Arab village. The next day the official communique stated that they had all been released and that their arms had been handed back to them. In Haifa the Army practices indiscriminate shooting at Arab quarters. In one day 15 Arabs were killed by this kind of shooting.

These are only instances of the new incomprehensible turn of events in Palestine. The Jewish press now sings the praises

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of the British forces and would acknowledge their help.

The Arab on the other hand have made it perfectly plain from the beginning that they do not want to fight the British, not because they have no grievance against them, but because the British declared that they intended to evacuate Palestine. This Arab policy has been so far rigidly maintained in the face of great hardships and provocations. The Arabs silently endure the losses and casualties inflicted upon them by the British forces, and all the acts of retaliation. But they cannot understand why the British are doing all this, when even at this moment they are still being attacked by the Jews. The Arabs remember that when Government offices were being blown up by the Jews, and also the Jews shot and hanged in the back, or flogged and hanged them, no measures were taken against them.

By then, the Arabs are asking, did the British army suddenly decide to adopt against them such measures as indiscriminate shooting, the blowing up of houses, day and night curfews?

Naturally Arab temper is rising against this unexpected development. The matter is the main subject of comment in all the Arab press, and the hope is that the British will leave with no new addition to the many legitimate grievances the Arabs have against them in Palestine in vain way.

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Registry
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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1

February, 1948.

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Draft.

General Sir E.L.
Spears, C.B.E.M.C.

I promised you a fuller reply to your letter of 27th January, enclosing copy of a letter which you have sent to the Colonial Secretary about the Arab complaint that we were taking the Jewish side in Palestine against them.

2. The task of the British troops in Palestine is to preserve law and order to the best of their ability without in any way discriminating between one community and the other. This means that they must exercise their discretion in determining which side is the aggressor in any particular incident. It is quite naturally that misunderstandings should result from this attitude, and we are, in fact, constantly receiving complaints from the Jews which are very similar in character to those to which you have invited our attention. I am convinced that the military are doing their best to suppress disorder impartially and that they are not actuated by any political prejudice whatsoever.

~~3. With reference to your last paragraph, we have already made communications to the Arab Governments on the subject of our plans for withdrawal from Palestine. I enclose an extract from the telegram in which H.M. Minister in Damascus was instructed on 4th December to explain to your Government the general outline of our plans.~~

*from
M.F.K.
R.S. Smith
C.M.G.
from*

H. Bealy 2/12

J.A. D. ...

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

113

9th February, 1948.

(E 1755/8/31)

Dear General Spears

I promised you a fuller reply to your letter of the 27th January, enclosing copy of a letter which you have sent to the Colonial Secretary about the Arab complaint that we were taking the Jewish side in Palestine against them.

2. The task of the British troops in Palestine is to preserve law and order to the best of their ability without in any way discriminating between one community and the other. This means that they must exercise their discretion in determining which side is the aggressor in any particular incident. It is quite natural that misunderstandings should result from this attitude, and we are, in fact, constantly receiving complaints from the Jews which are very similar in character to those to which you have invited our attention. I am convinced that the military are doing their best to suppress disorder impartially and that they are not actuated by any political prejudice whatsoever.

F. K. Roberts
(F.K. Roberts)

General Sir Edward Spears, K.B.E., C.B.,
164, St. Stephens House,
S.W.1.

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E

114
E. 1763
7 FEB 1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E1763/s/31
FROM } *M. J. Lester*
 } *Bromick*
No. } *P.R.*
Dated } *4 Feb*
Received in Registry } *7*

*Termination of Mandate and subsequent
M. J. Lester Bromick and others vs. final
decision of the UN as to the fate of the
territories of the mandate of the
United Kingdom and the
UN for the withdrawal of the mandate and the
territories of the mandate.*

Last Paper.

1756

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*apt. R. A. Wood,
M/ Defence
from M. Roberts
2 Feb
of W. Van Nostrand
U.K. Nat. New York
Feb 12*

(Action completed.)

J. E. M. 12/2

(Index.)

M. J. Lester

Next Paper.

1880

(Minutes.)

*Copy Washington
U.K. Nat. N. York*

*M. J. Lester
Feb. 9*

M. J. 7/2

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EASTERN

E 1763 F 115

Parliamentary Question

* 68. Major Tufton Beamish.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether any final decision has yet been taken as to the date on which the United Kingdom will cease to be responsible for the maintenance of law and order in Palestine; and whether he is now in a position to make a fuller statement regarding the plans for the withdrawal of British Forces, stores and equipment from Palestine. [Wednesday 4th February.]

ll.

Lewis

- 4 FEB 1948

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE

Attach reply

JTB Jan 30

1809/11

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54. **Major Beamish** asked the Minister of Defence whether any final decision has yet been taken as to the date on which the United Kingdom will cease to be responsible for the maintenance of law and order in Palestine; and whether he is now in a position to make a fuller statement regarding the plans for the withdrawal of British Forces, stores and equipment from Palestine.

51. **Mr. Shurmer** asked the Minister of Defence is he aware of the anxiety felt by the wives, parents and relatives of our troops serving in Palestine, in view of the murderous warfare now developing and can he say how long before our troops will be withdrawn from that area.

Mr. Alexander: As has already been announced, it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to terminate their Mandate in Palestine, and with it their civil administration of that country, on 15th May next, and to complete the evacuation of their Forces from Palestine by 1st August next. The progress of the withdrawal of British Forces, stores and equipment from Palestine is proceeding according to these plans, and is making good progress. The Government deplore the outbreaks of violence occurring in Palestine, with the casualties they entail, both to the civil population and to personnel of the British Forces and civil administration. During the Debate on 12th December, 1947, it was stated that His Majesty's Government would keep in mind the possibility of withdrawing at earlier dates than those stated above. The matter has accordingly been kept under review, and has recently been re-examined. But, having regard to all the factors, and to all that has to be done, and to the very great care with which the original plan was worked out, His Majesty's Government must adhere to the dates originally announced, i.e., 15th May for the termination of the Mandate, and 1st August for the completion of the evacuation of British Forces.

Major Beamish: In view of the fact that a very considerable number of British personnel and large quantities of stores must remain in Palestine between May and August, will the Minister say whether he is satisfied that the machinery provided by the United Nations for the maintenance of law and order in Palestine, and for the administration of Palestine, will be adequate, and will not result in the needless loss of British lives and great cost to the British taxpayers?

Mr. Alexander: I cannot reveal the details of our plan of evacuation and the covering of that portion of the stores which we cannot evacuate before 15th May. Therefore, I cannot answer the question.

Major Beamish: Is the Minister satisfied that the machinery to be provided by the United Nations will be adequate for the maintenance of law and order and the administration of Palestine?

Mr. Alexander: With regard to that question, I would refer the hon. and gallant Gentleman to the statements made on several occasions at the United Nations Organisation by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies and other representatives.

Major Beamish: But they do not answer my question.

Mr. Janner: Does my right hon. Friend really think that the United Nations can make preparations in the space of two weeks to put the new States in this country in a position to preserve that order, and will he see to it that the other Ministers concerned in the matter with him realise the absurdity of that suggestion?

Mr. Alexander: That is a question which should be addressed to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies. I can only add that the United Nations Organisation were given very ample warning.

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54 FEB 1948

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OUT FILE

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(Redraft of last sentence)

During the Debate on 12th December, 1947
it was stated that ^{the} ~~the~~ Government would keep in
mind the possibility of withdrawing at earlier
dates than those stated above. The matter has
accordingly been kept under review, and has
recently been re-examined. But having regard to
all the factors and to all that has to be done,
and to the very ^{great} ~~careful~~ ^{with} ~~way~~ in which the original
plan was worked out, ^{the} ~~the~~ Government must adhere to
the dates originally announced, i.e. May 15th for
the termination of the Mandate, and August 1st for
the completion of the evacuation of British forces.

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

3rd February, 1948.

IMMEDIATE

OUTFILE

I return herewith a file which was left with me this morning by the Minister of Defence dealing with a Parliamentary Question for to-morrow about Palestine.

The reply was discussed by the Minister of Defence and the Colonial Secretary with the Foreign Secretary, and I gather that it was afterwards discussed by all of them with the Prime Minister. The Foreign Secretary dictated in the presence of the Minister of Defence the enclosed alternative drafts for the last sentence of the draft reply, and I undertook to send this over with the file to you this afternoon.

(Sgd.) F.K. ROBERTS.

R.F. Wood, Esq.,
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